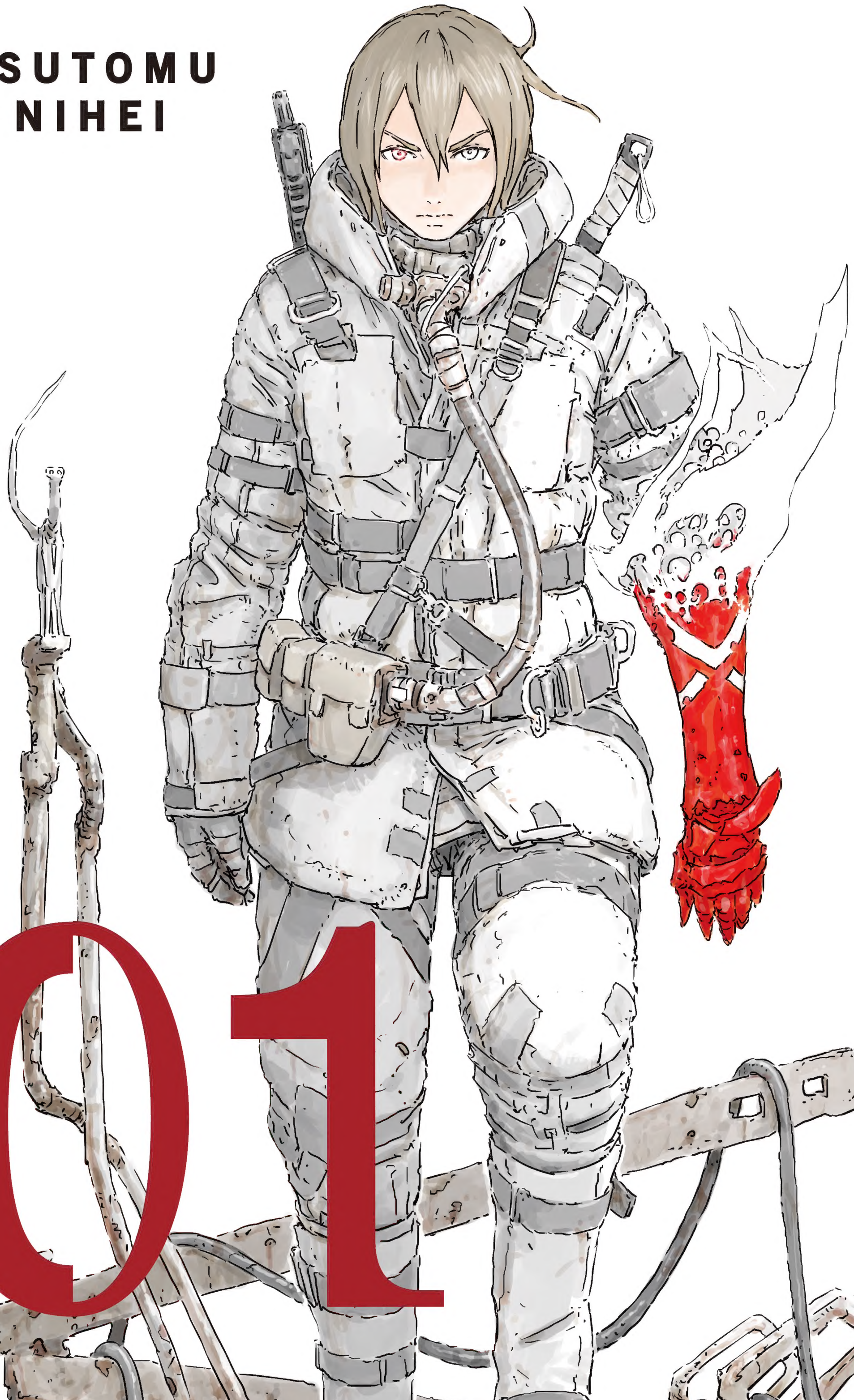
APOSIMZ

TSUTOMU NIHEI



01



THE ARTIFICIAL CELESTIAL BODY APOSIMZ
MEASURES 120,000 KM IN DIAMETER.
MOST OF ITS VOLUME IS ITS CORE SPACE,
WHICH IS COVERED BY A SUPERSTRUCTURAL SHELL.

FIFTY CENTURIES AGO, THE PEOPLE WHO LOST THE WAR
AGAINST THE CORE LOST THEIR RIGHT TO RESIDE LEGITIMATELY
ON APOSIMZ, AND WERE STRANDED ON THE FRIGID SURFACE.

THEY FACE RAMPANT FRAME DISEASE AND AGGRESSIVE
AUTOMATONS WHICH APPEAR FREQUENTLY ON THE RUINS LEVEL.

YET EVEN SO,
SOMEHOW THE PEOPLE SURVIVE.

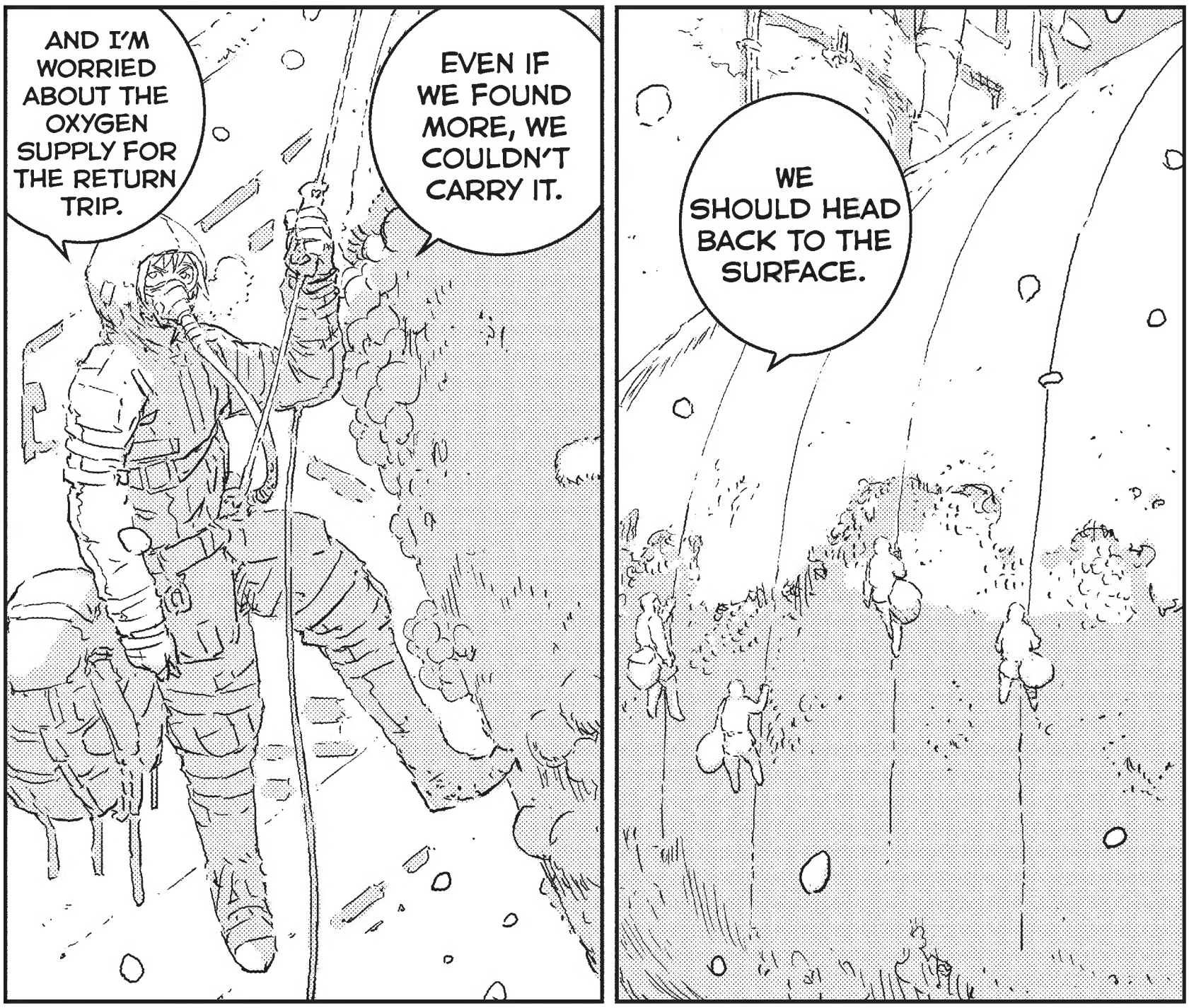
APOSIMZ

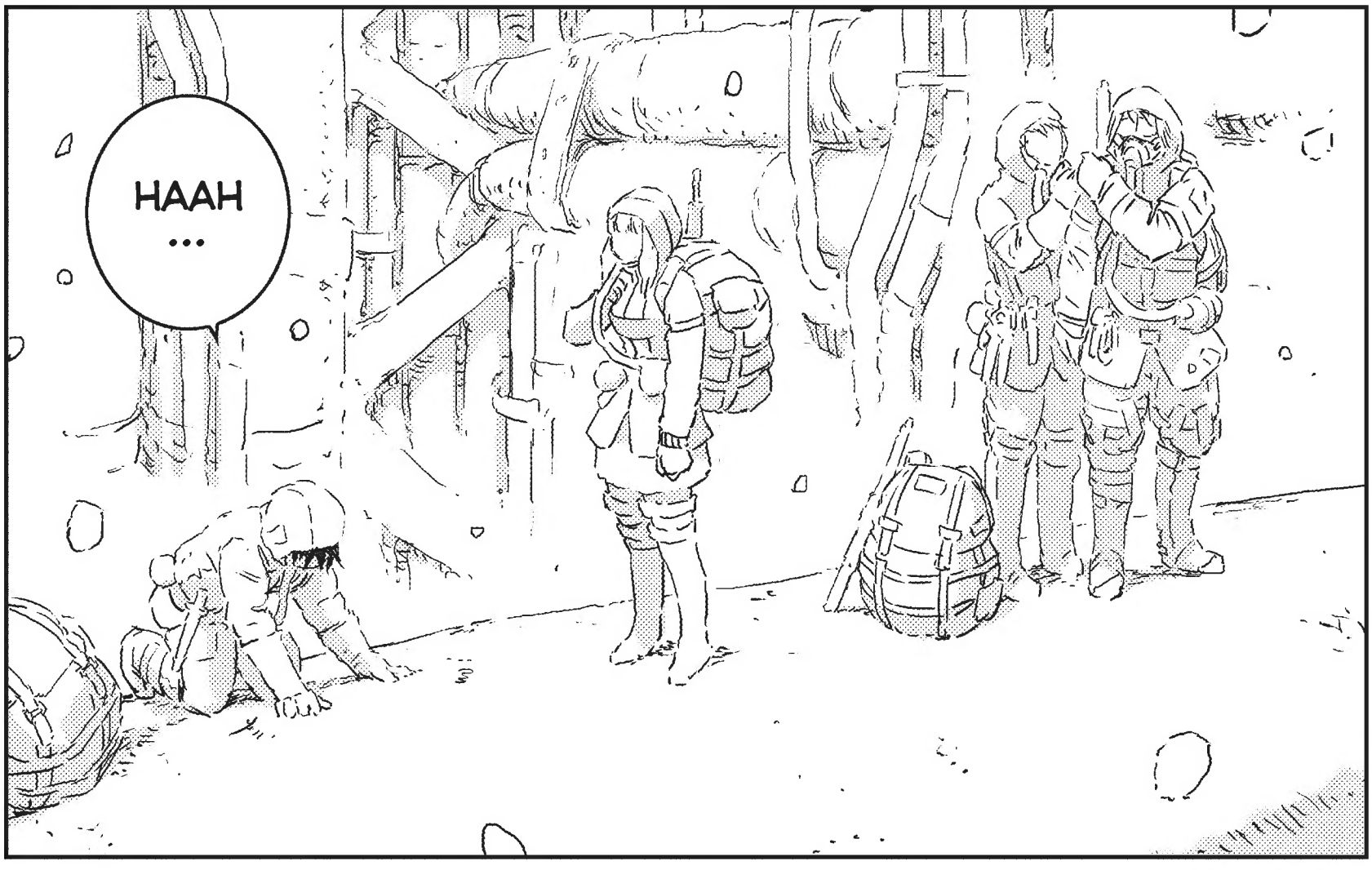
01

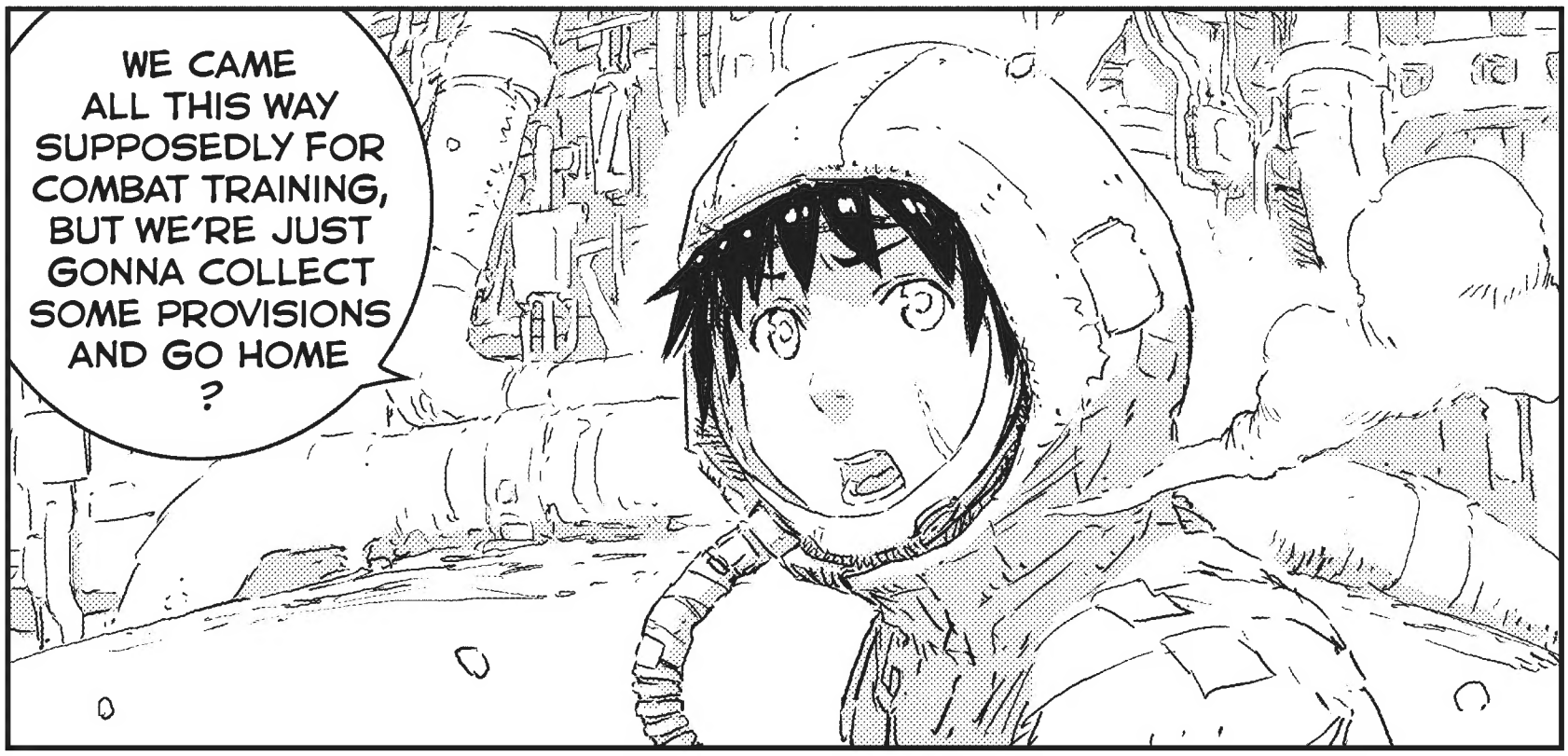
TSUTOMU NIHEI

THREE MONTHS AGO. RUINS LEVEL.

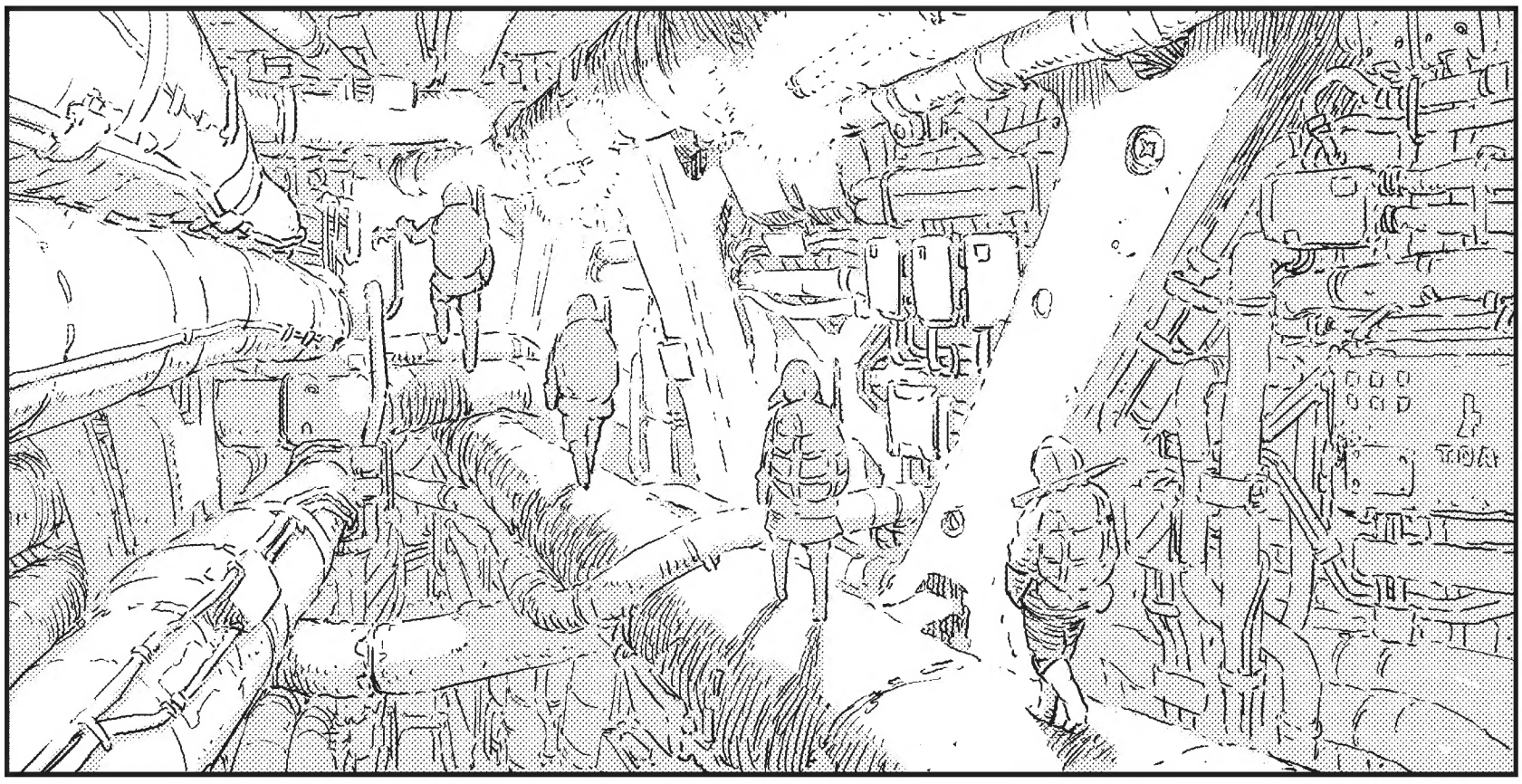
CHAPTER 01


AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE OXYGEN SUPPLY FOR THE RETURN TRIP.
EVEN IF WE FOUND MORE, WE COULDN'T CARRY IT.
WE SHOULD HEAD BACK TO THE SURFACE.

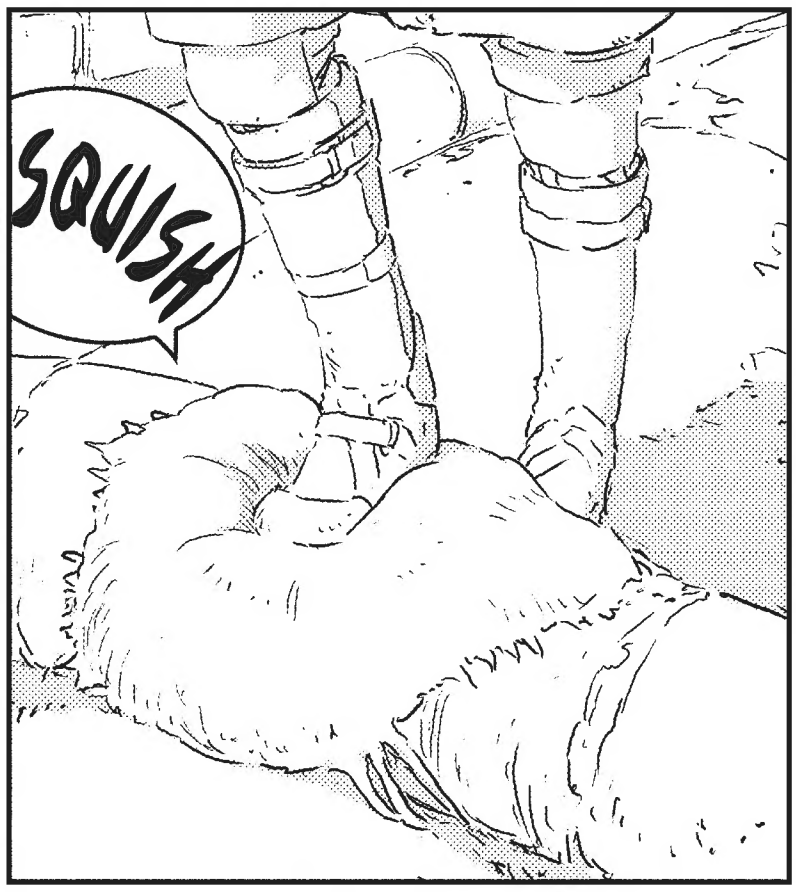

HAAH
...

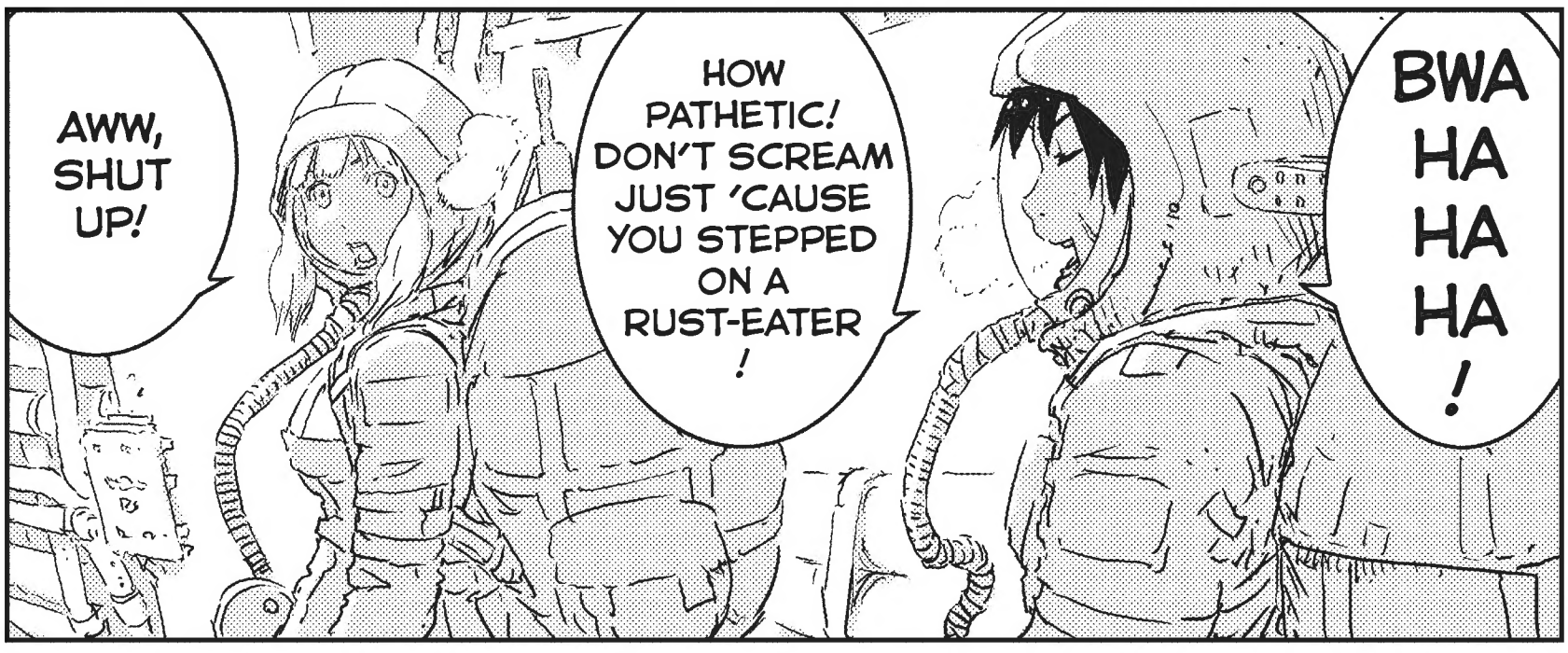

WE CAME ALL THIS WAY SUPPOSEDLY FOR COMBAT TRAINING, BUT WE'RE JUST GONNA COLLECT SOME PROVISIONS AND GO HOME ?

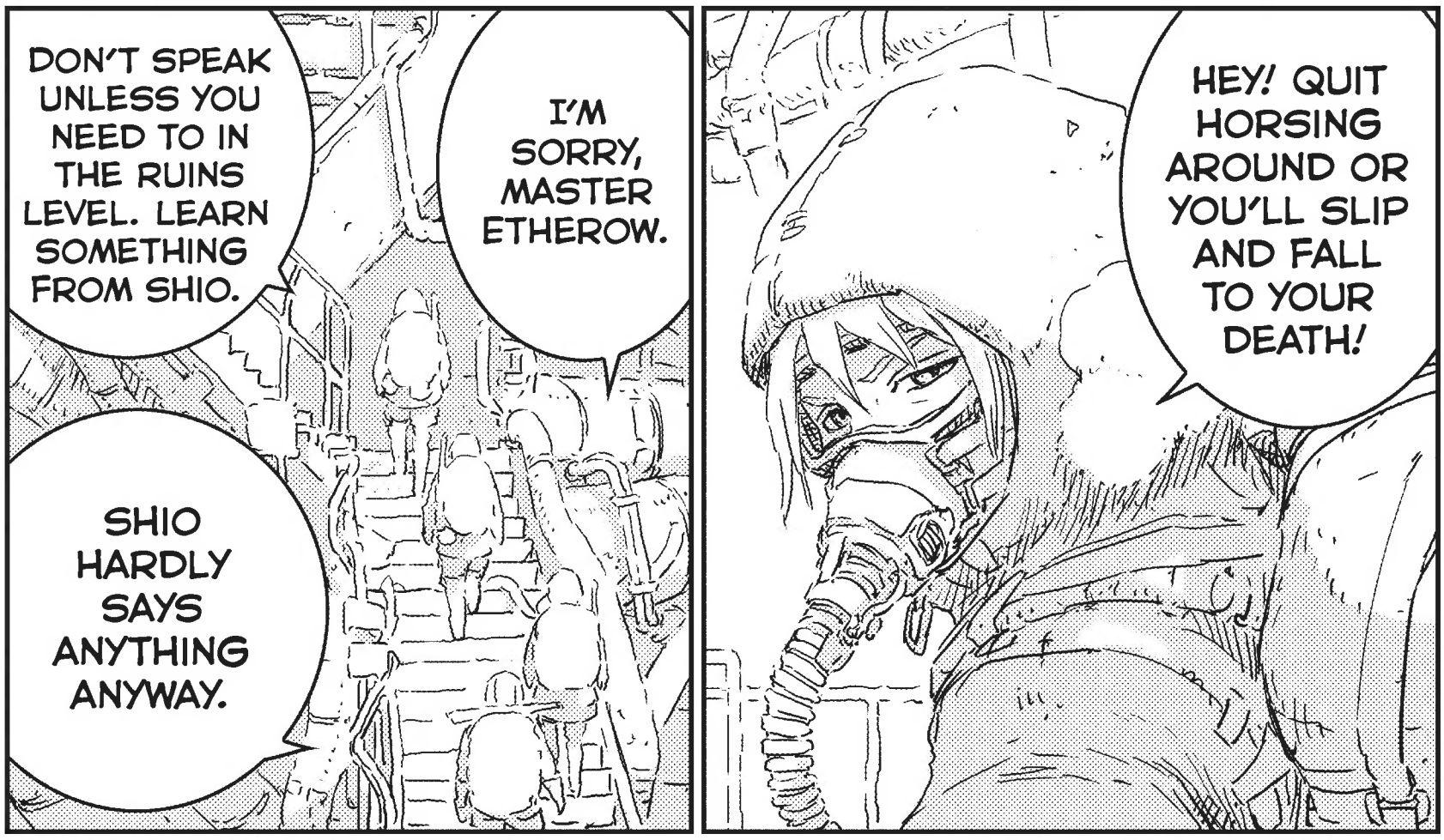

LET'S GO!
IT'S RARE TO FIND SUCH SPECTACULAR PIPE FRUITS GROWING IN SUCH BIG CLUSTERS.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED, EO.



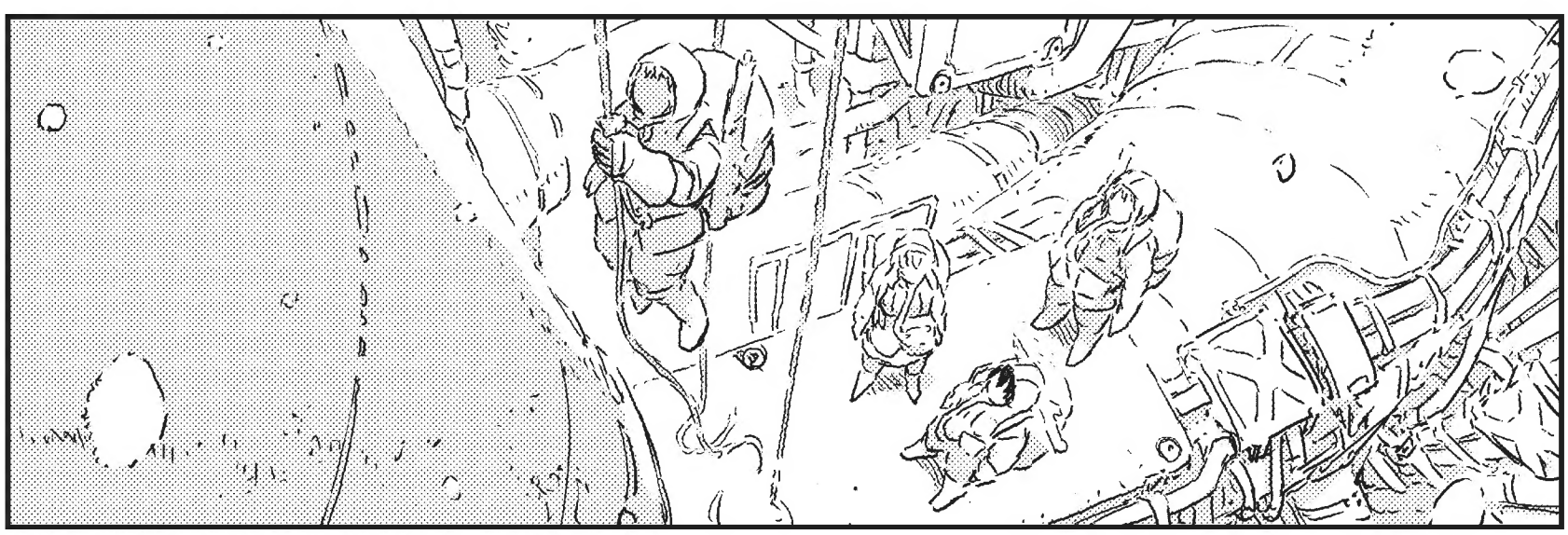

EEEK!!
SHRFF
SHRFF
SHRFF


SQUISH

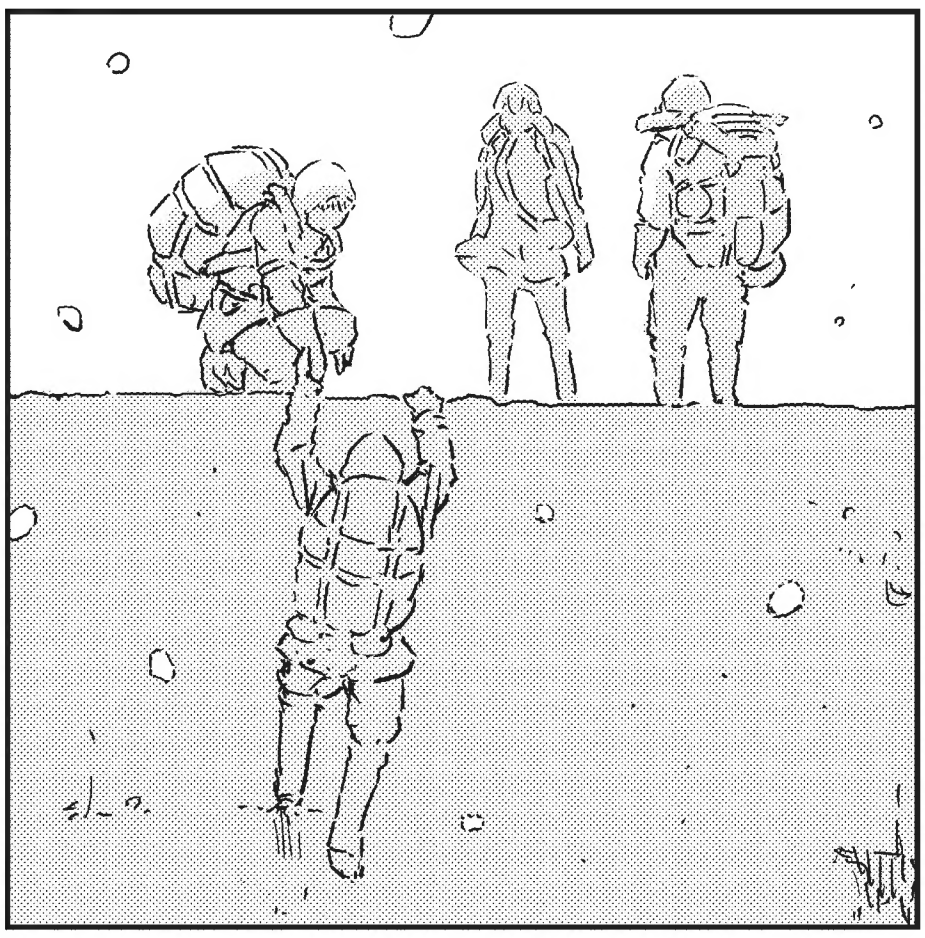

AWW, SHUT UP!
HOW PATHETIC! DON'T SCREAM JUST 'CAUSE YOU STEPPED ON A RUST-EATER!
BWA HA HA HA!

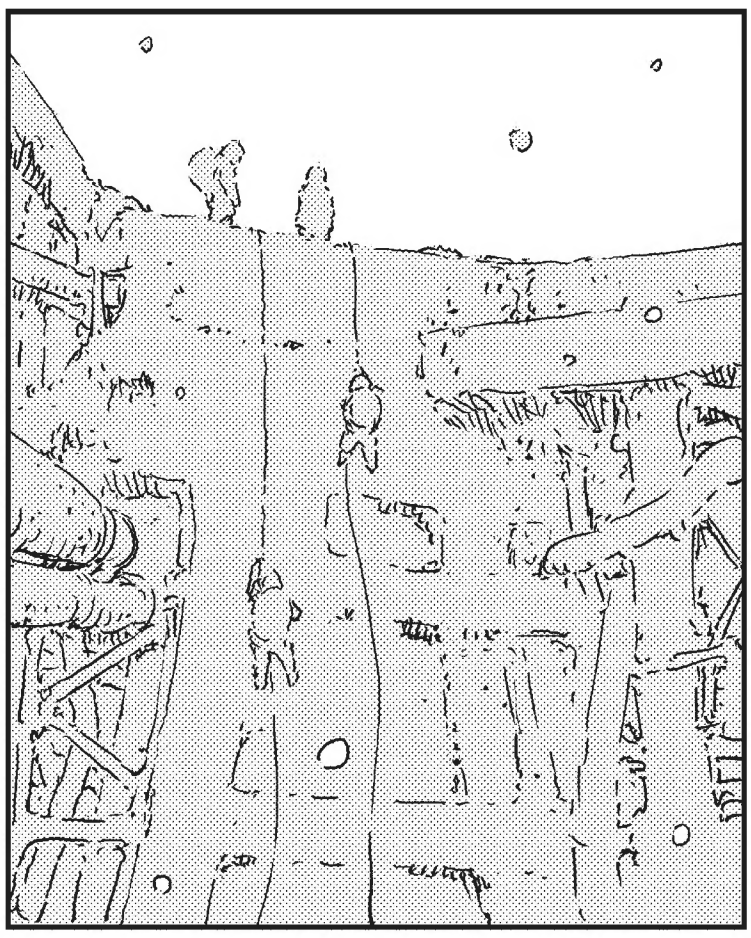

DON'T SPEAK UNLESS YOU NEED TO IN THE RUINS LEVEL. LEARN SOMETHING FROM SHIO.
I'M SORRY, MASTER ETHEROW.
SHIO HARDLY SAYS ANYTHING ANYWAY.
HEY! QUIT HORSING AROUND OR YOU'LL SLIP AND FALL TO YOUR DEATH!



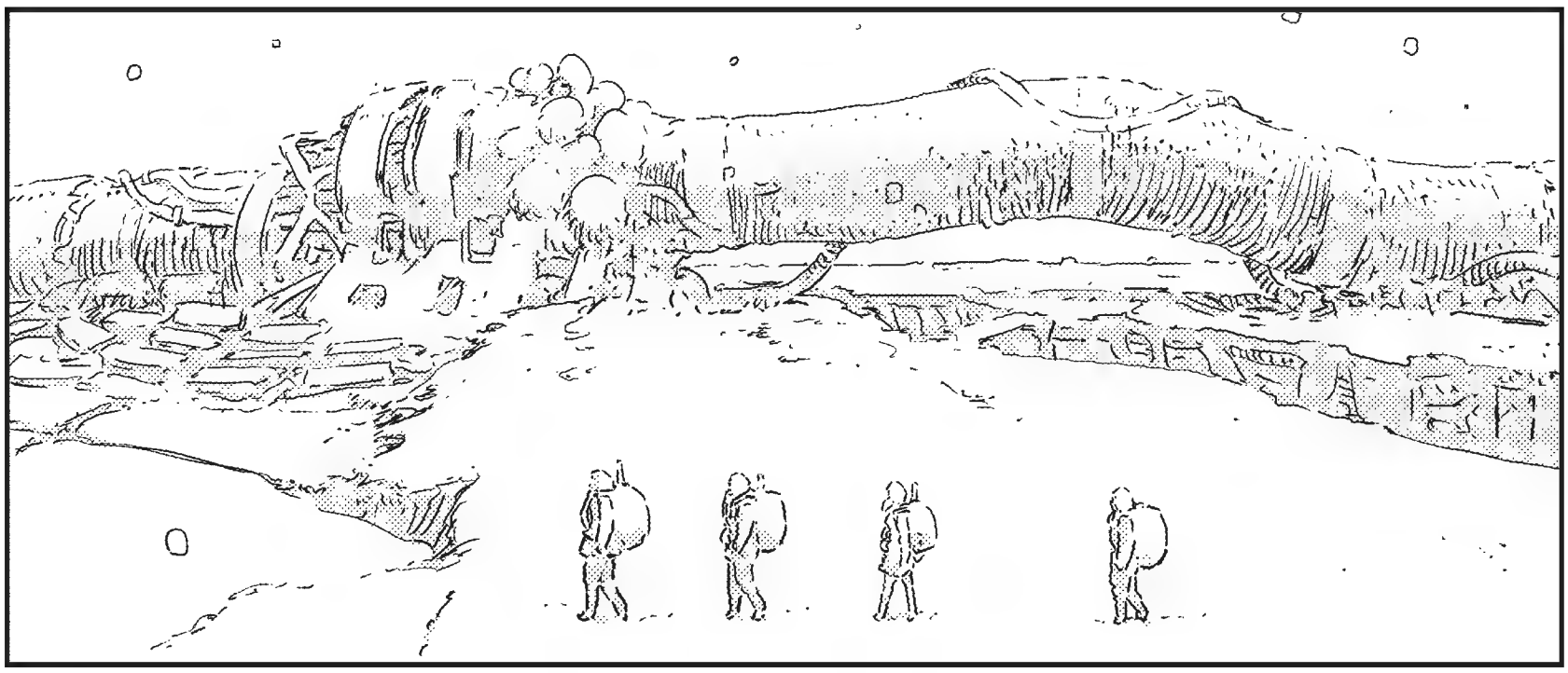


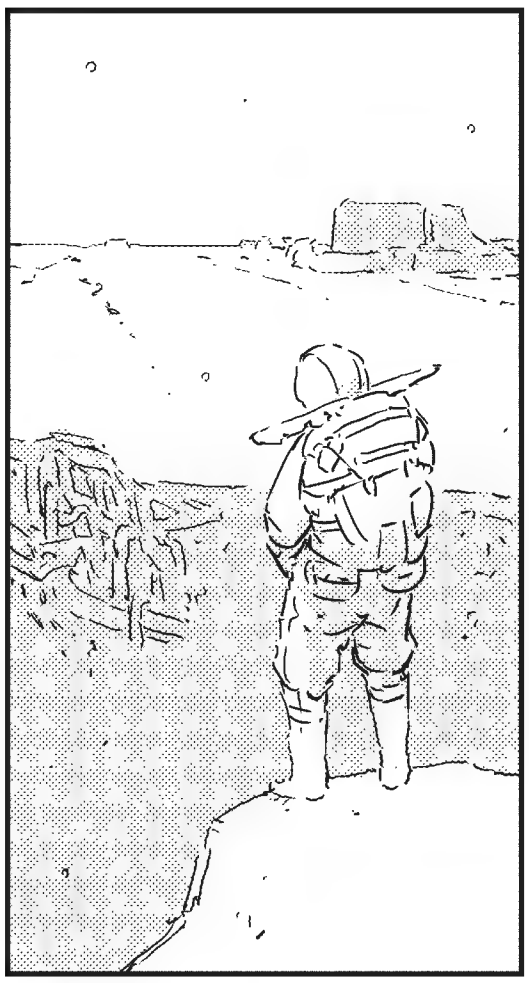


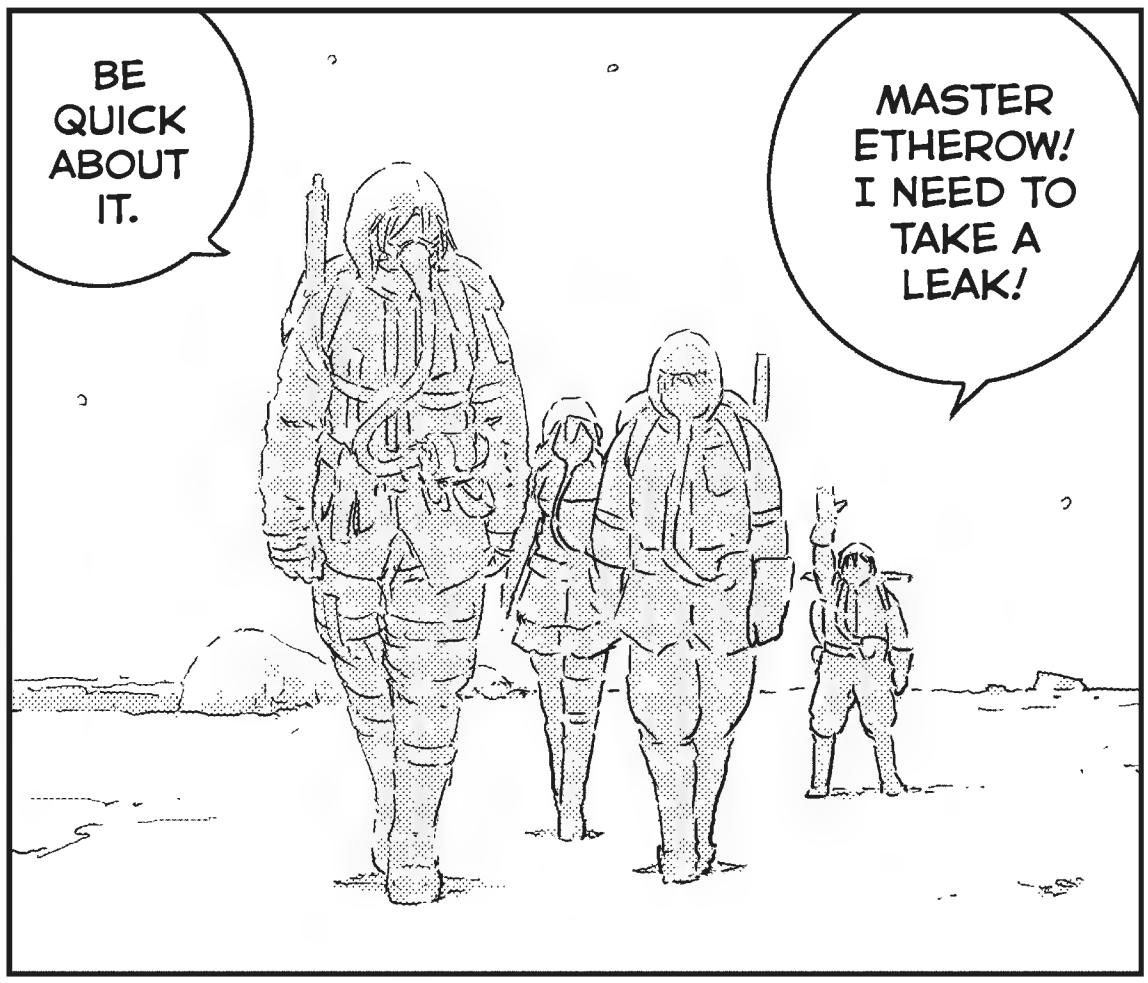


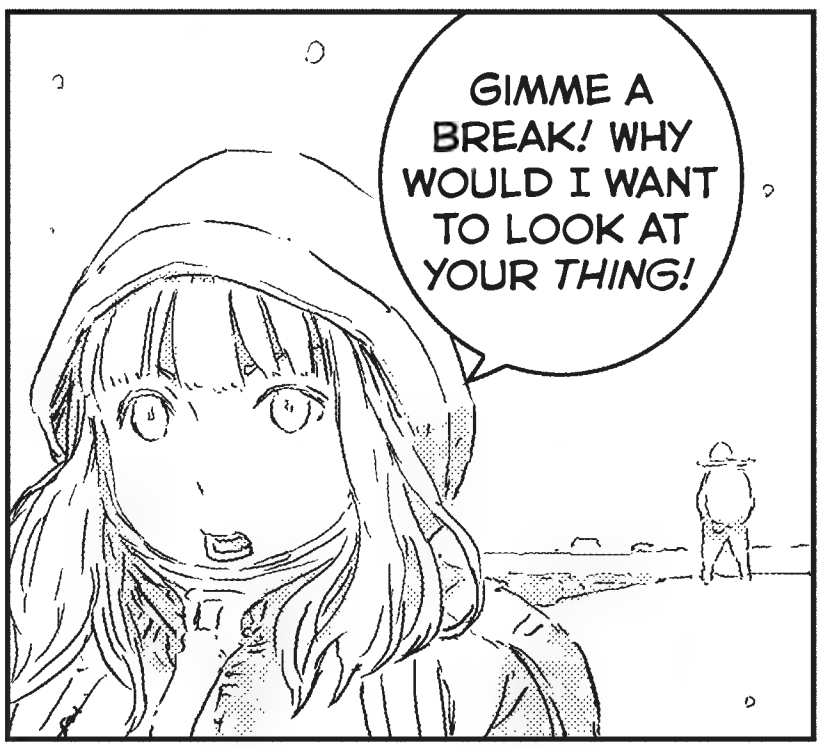









BE QUICK ABOUT IT.
MASTER ETHEROW! I NEED TO TAKE A LEAK!


GIMME A BREAK! WHY WOULD I WANT TO LOOK AT YOUR *THING*!


COME LOOK AT THIS!
BIKO !!

YOU'RE RIGHT... THERE ARE LOTS OF FRESH FRAMES AMONG THEM.

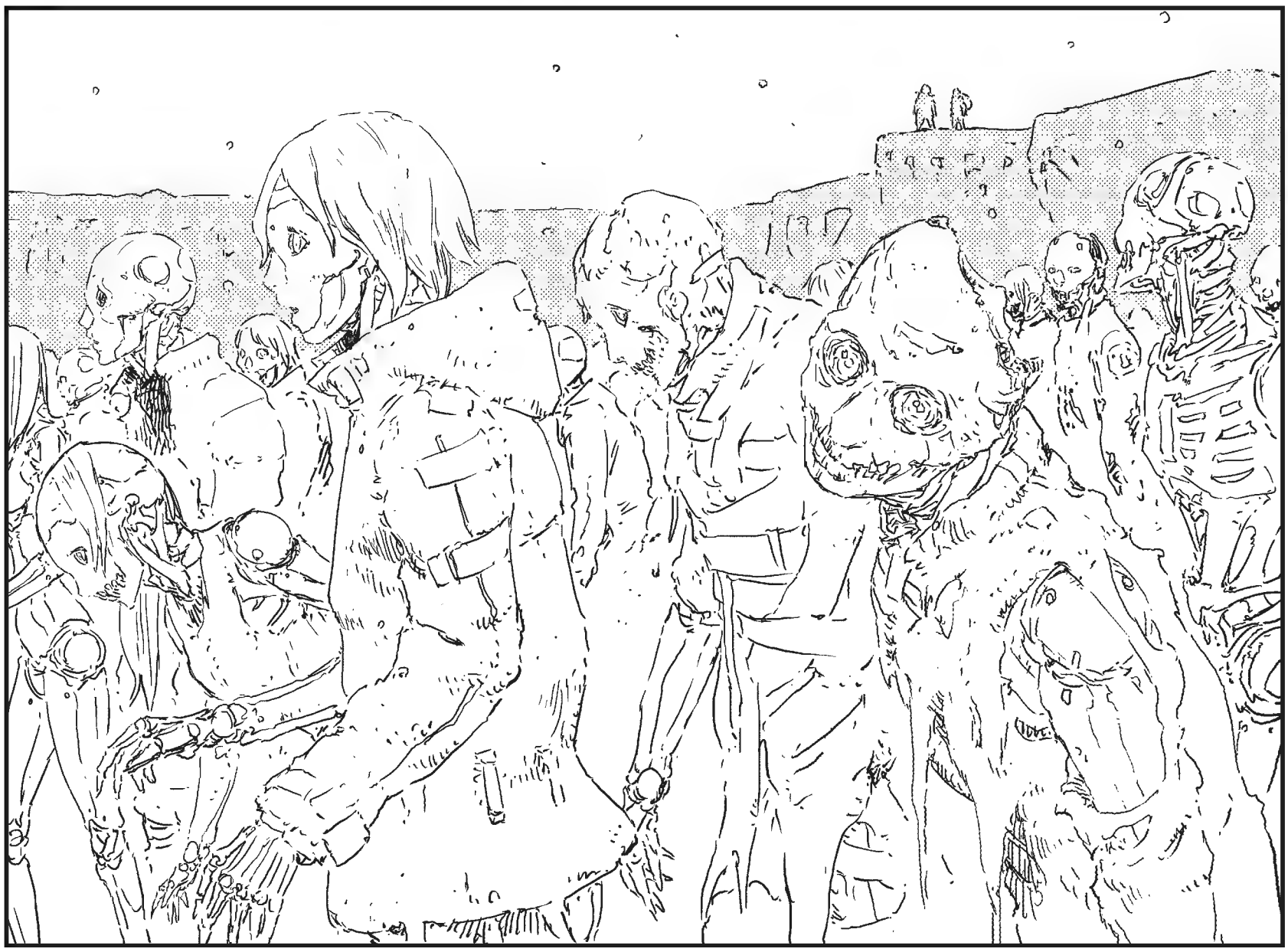
YEAH. YOU OFTEN SEE THE MESSED-UP OLD ONES, BUT THIS...

IT'S A BIT WEIRD, THOUGH. THERE'S LOTS OF NEW ONES.

NEW ONES ?

N-NO! THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH FRAME DISEASE OVER THERE...

SO WHAT? THAT'S NOT SO RARE, IS IT?



THEY SAY WHEN YOU BECOME A FRAME, YOU LOSE YOUR SENSE OF SELF, BUT I WONDER IF THAT'S TRUE...

THEY COULD HAVE ESCAPED FROM SOME TOWN'S QUARANTINE.

BECAUSE OF REBEDOA'S INVASIONS, THE BORDERS ARE ALL IN CHAOS.

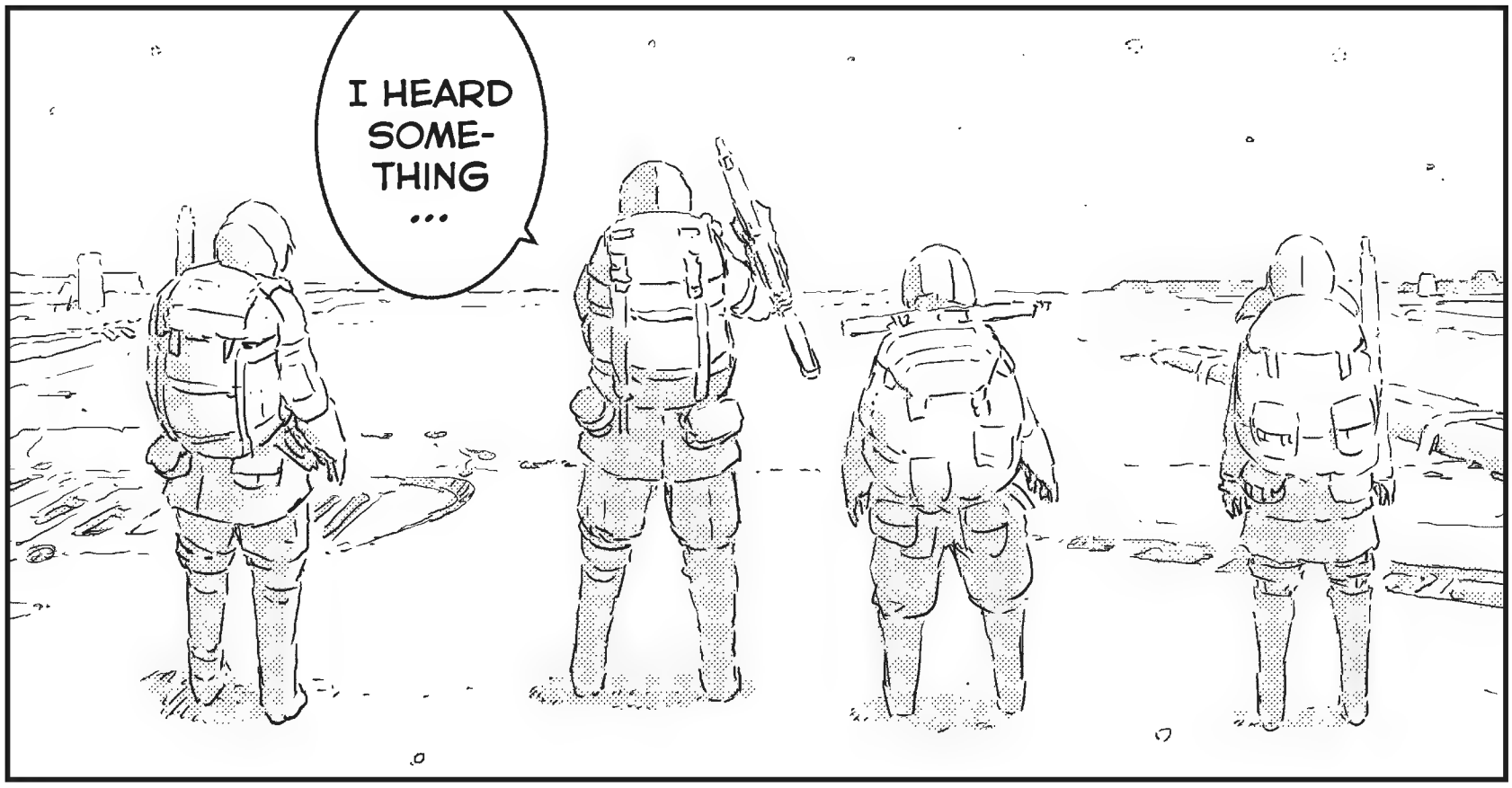
BIKO ...

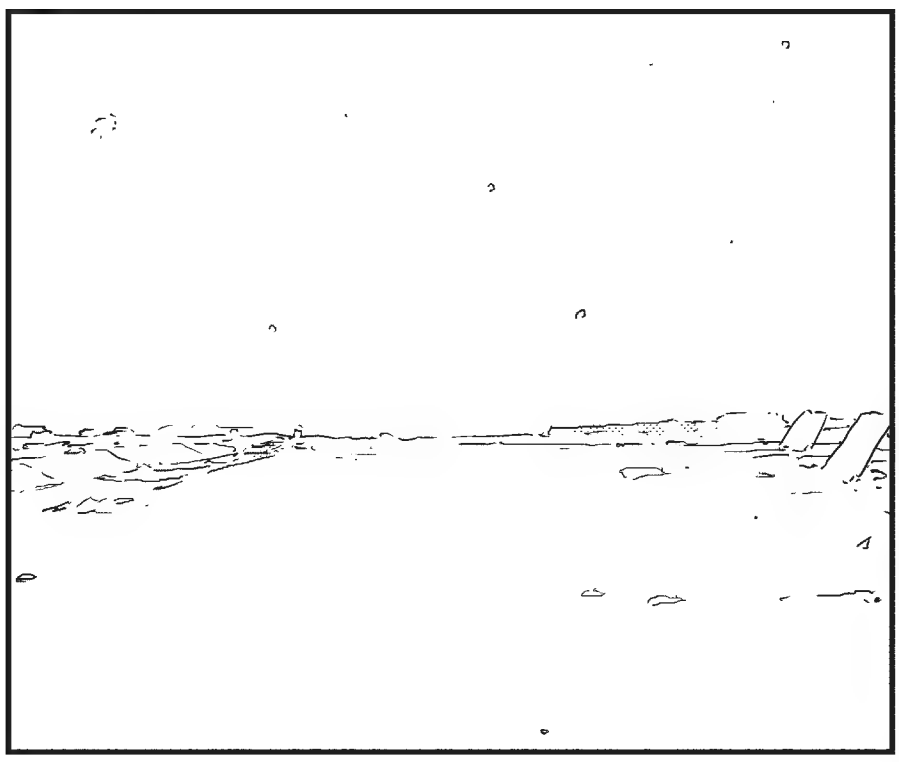
IF IT EVER LOOKS LIKE I'M BECOMING A FRAME, I WANT YOU TO KILL ME.

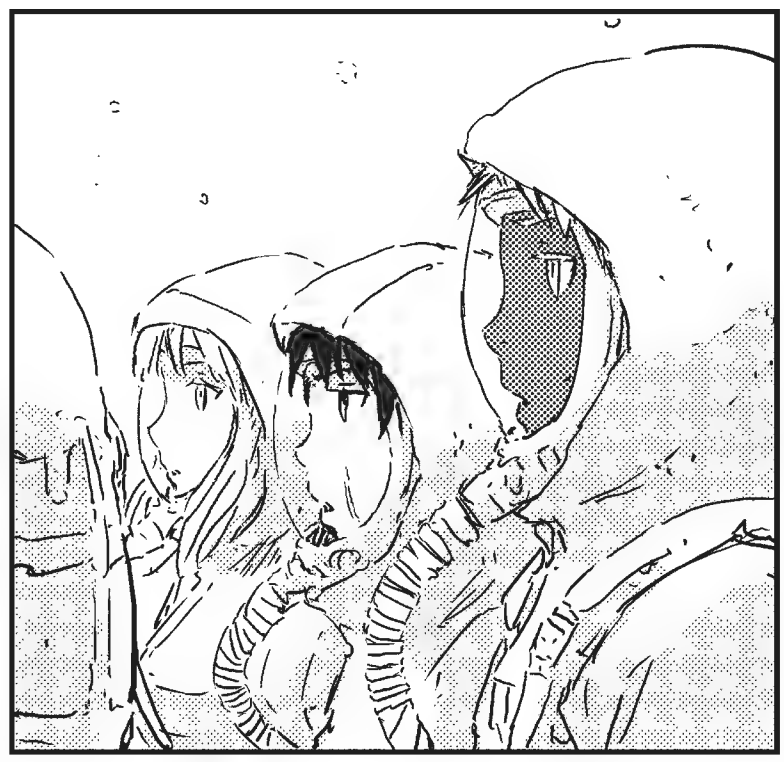
AND THEY'RE STUCK JUST ROAMING THIS WORLD IN THAT STATE FOR DECADES, OR EVEN CENTURIES...

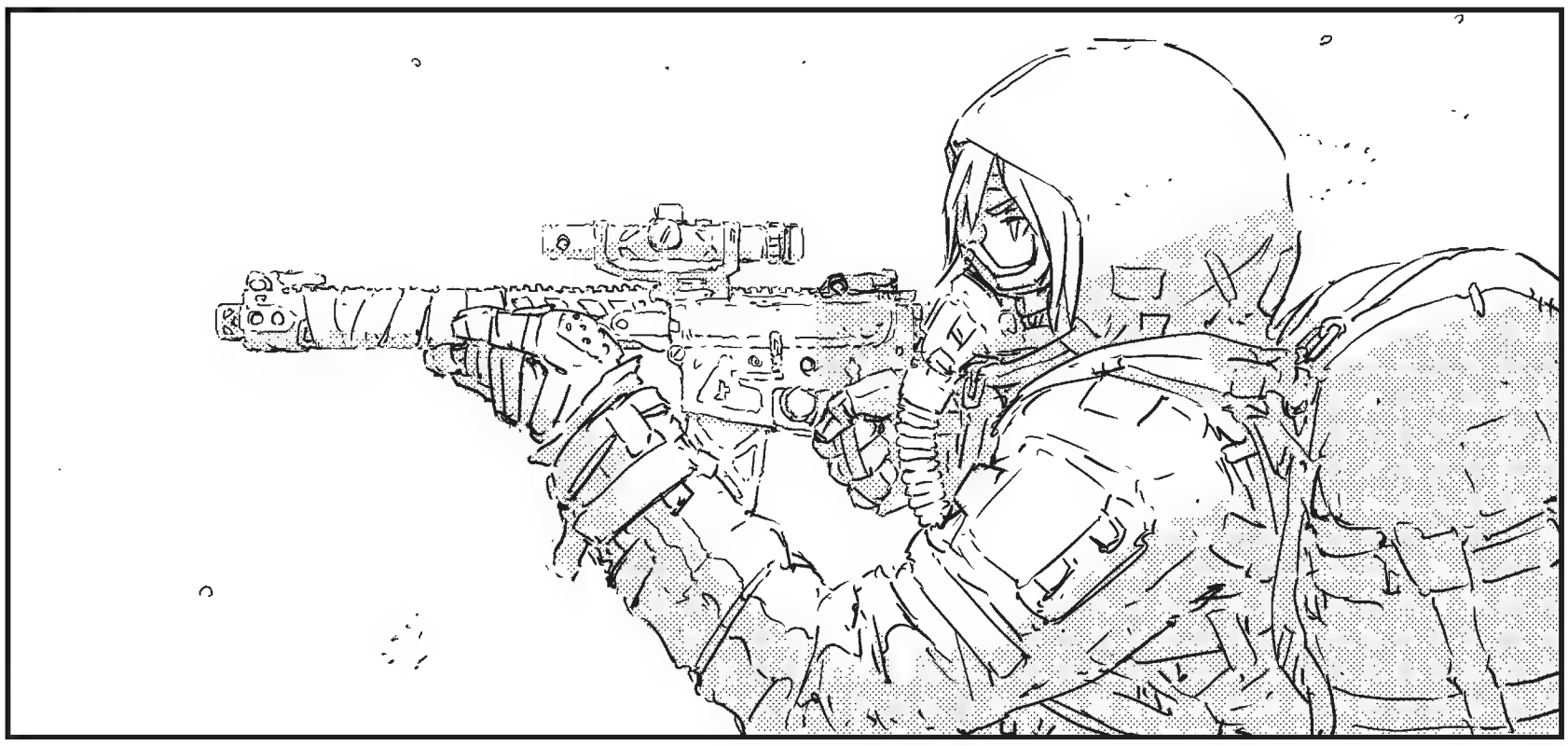
IF THEY HAVE EVEN THE TINIEST BIT OF CONSCIOUS-NESS LEFT ...

QUIET.


I HEARD SOME-THING ...







ARE THEY CHASING SOME-THING?

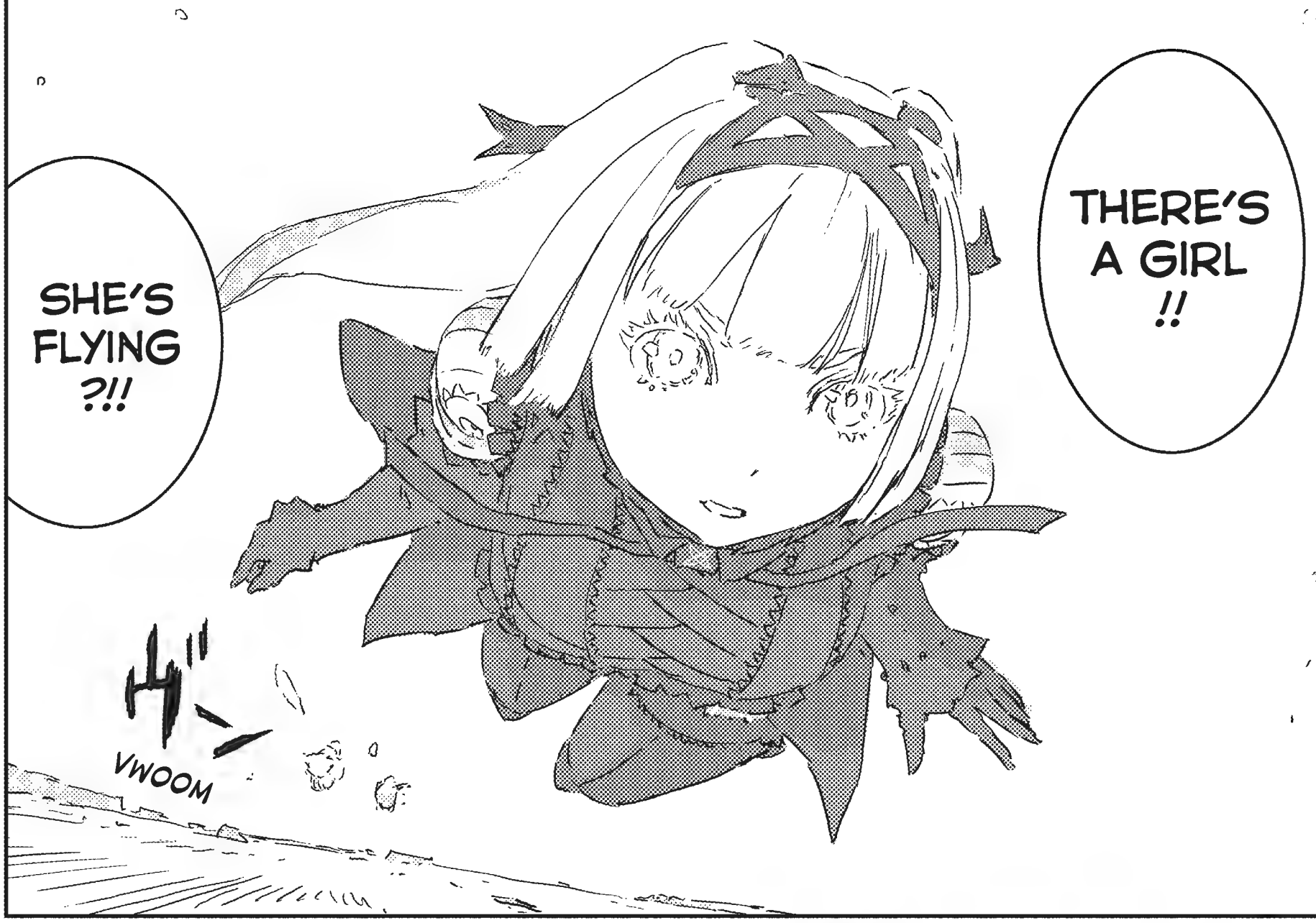
REBE-DOAN LIGHT AIR SPEED-ERS!

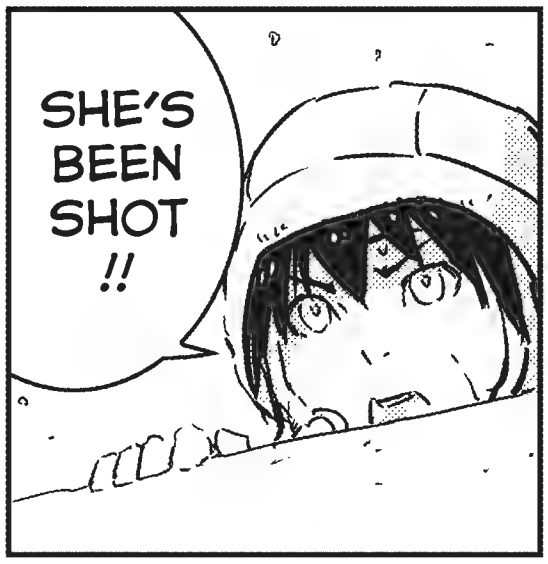
IT'S...

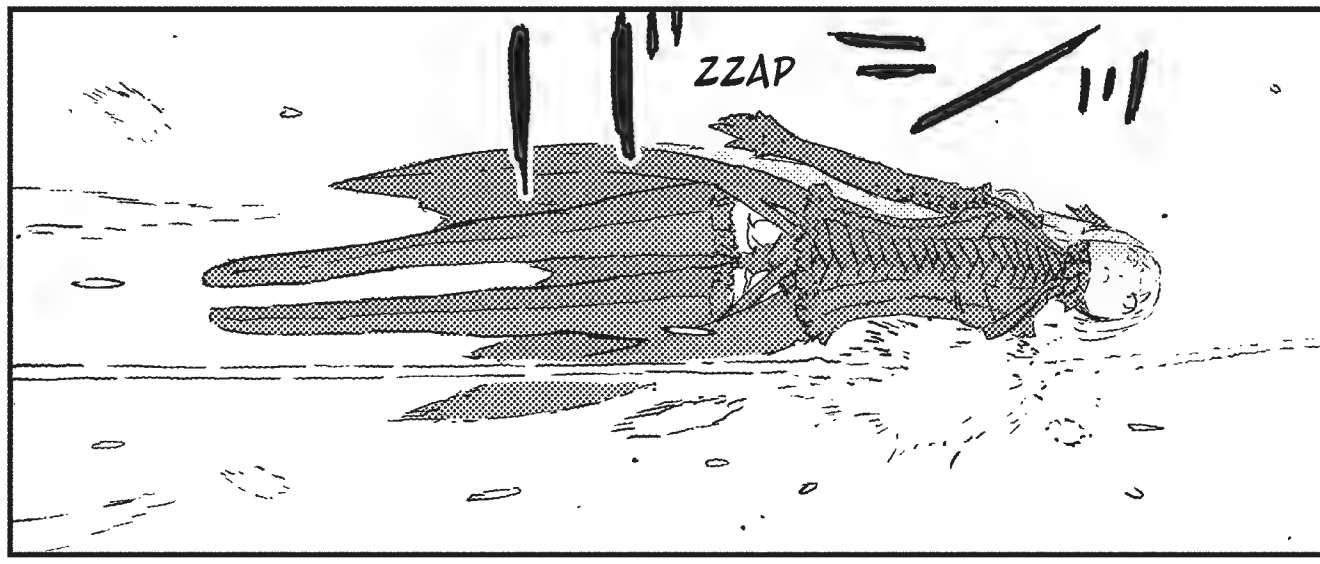
THIS COULD BE TROUBLE. EVERYONE, HIDE IN THE HOLLOW.

THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!

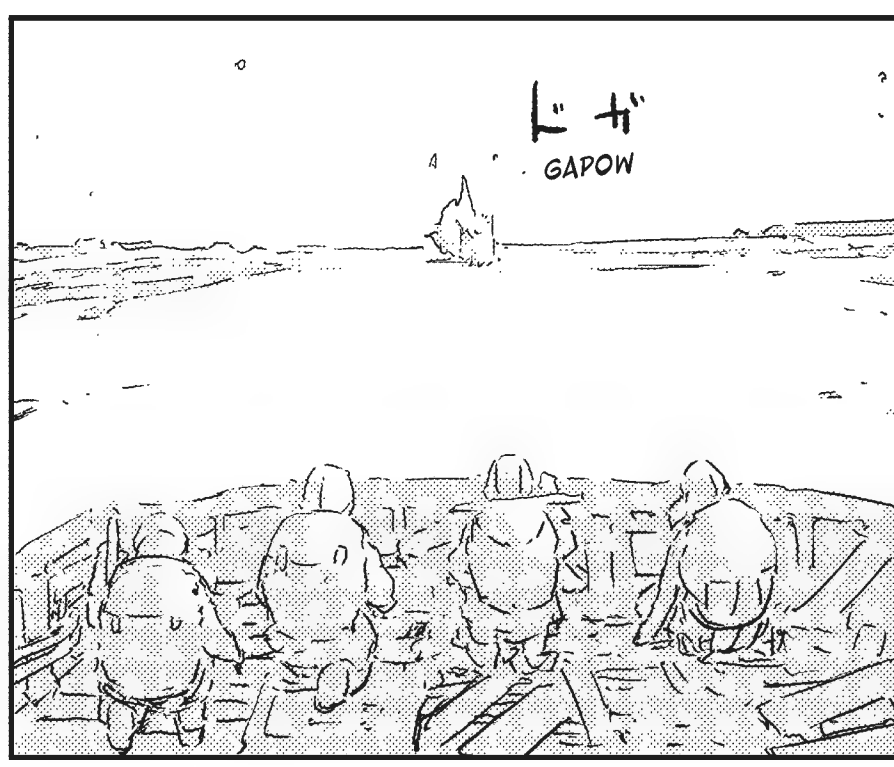
HE'S RIGHT !!


SHE'S FLYING ?!!
THERE'S A GIRL !!
VWOOM


SHE'S BEEN SHOT !!


ZZAP


DZHAAAAA


GAPOW

YOU IDIOT!! DON'T GET INVOLVED !!

!!

JUMP !!!

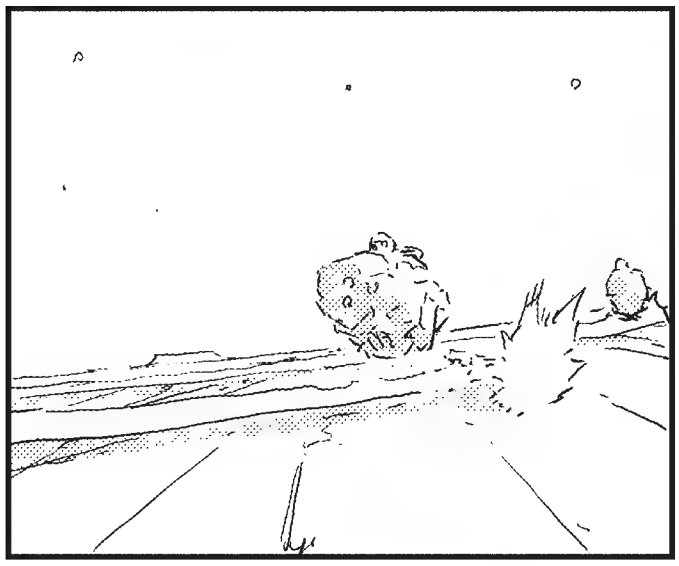
!!

!!

DON'T SHOOT !!

STOP !!

TAKE THIS SOMEWHERE THE REBEDOA EMPIRE CAN'T GET AHOLD OF IT...



PLEASE ...

IF IT FALLS INTO THE EMPEROR'S HANDS, THE WORLD WILL END.

OKAY!

BAFP

THP

WHAT A PAIN! KILL 'EM!

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!

VWOOSH

GWEEEM

EO !!

BOOM

KRAK

!

BSHT

BSHT

BSHT

BAM

BLAM

KANG

GACHOOM

...

HHSSSHHH

I'M ALL RIGHT. IT JUST SCORCHED MY CLOTHES.

EO!

THE GIRL VANISHED !!

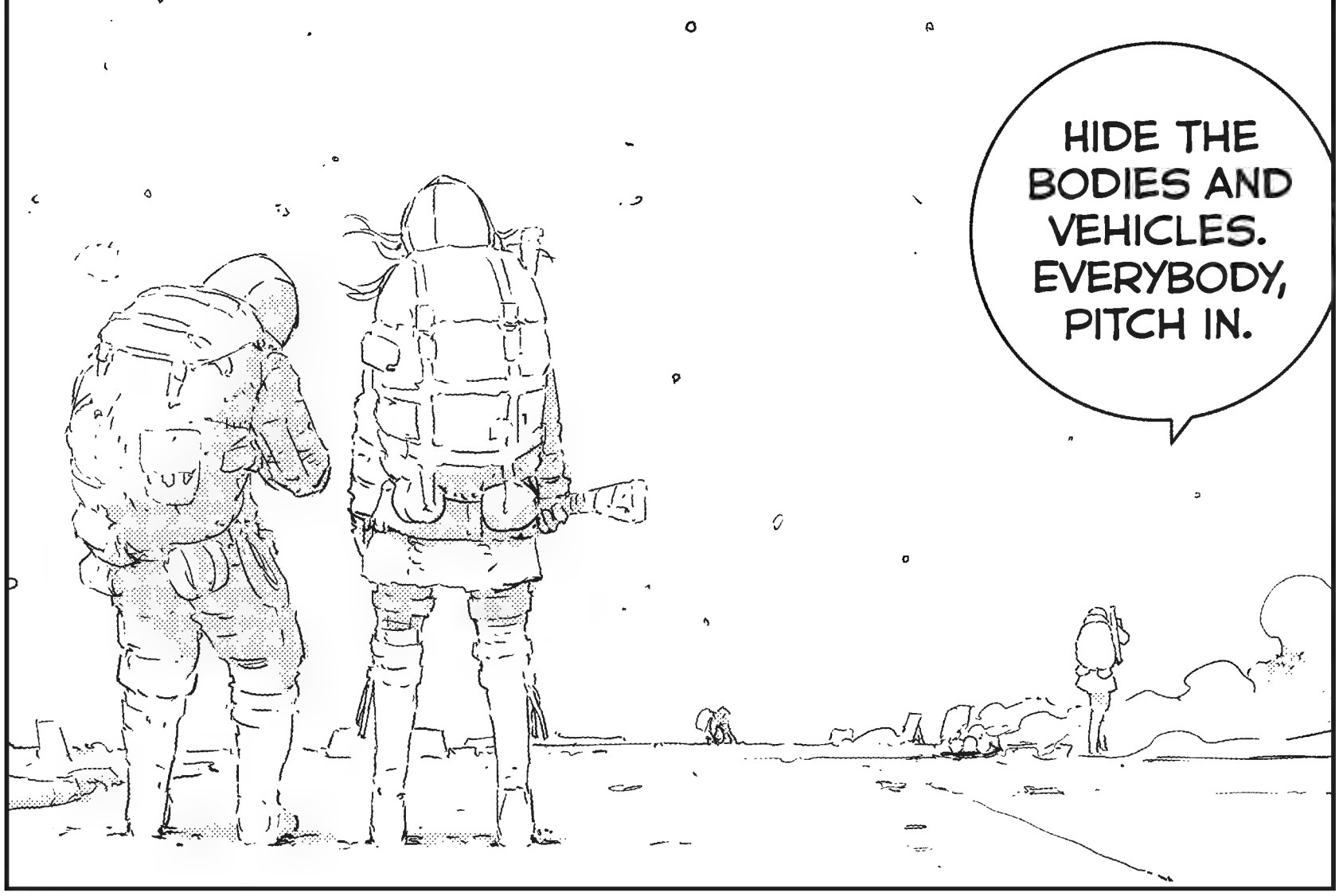
URGH ...

HE JUST KILLED THOSE REBEDOAN SOLDIERS.

HE KILLED THEM...

BSHT

BSHT


HIDE THE BODIES AND VEHICLES. EVERYBODY, PITCH IN.

AT FIRST IT WAS A GIRL!

THE TEAM THAT CAME BACK IS ACTING ALL WEIRD. EVEN ETHEROW'S FACE HAD GONE COMPLETELY WHITE...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

AND THEN SHE SHRUNK DOWN IN AN INSTANT!

IN ANY CASE, THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL SAFE.

AND THIS SMALL AUTOMATON ...

AND WHAT WAS LEFT WAS A CODE, SEVEN OF THESE BULLET-LIKE THINGS,

THE EMPIRE HAS ALREADY DUG UP PLENTY OF CODES, AND THEY'RE CERTAINLY NOT RARE.

SO DOES THAT MEAN THAT THESE BULLET-LIKE THINGS HAVE THE POWER TO END THE WORLD...?

YOU CAN'T!

IT'LL TAKE DAYS TO REACH A BASE, AND IF THEY FIND YOU, THEY'LL KILL YOU!

!

I'LL TAKE ALL OF IT AND LEAVE IT ON A REBEDOAN BASE.

IF THEY GET WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR, THEY'LL...

YOU PROBABLY THINK YOU CAN QUELL THIS SITUATION EVEN IF IT COSTS YOU YOUR LIFE, SIR, BUT IT WILL BE IN VAIN. EVEN IF YOU GIVE THESE THINGS BACK, THE REBEDOA SEARCH TEAMS ARE SURE TO REACH THIS CASTLE.

I'LL DO IT!

THEN LET'S FIGHT THEM! IF WE USE THE CODE, WE CAN BECOME REGULAR FRAMES, RIGHT?

HUH ?

WELL? IT'S A GOOD IDEA, RIGHT ?!

SHUT UP.

WITH TWO REGULAR FRAMES ON OUR SIDE, EVEN REBEDOA WILL HAVE TO WATCH THEIR STEP!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY REGULAR FRAMES REBEDOA HAS?!

YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT, EH?!

IN MY CASE, THERE WERE 47 CASUALTIES BEFORE IT TURNED OUT I WAS COMPATIBLE WITH THE CODE.

AND MOST OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES DIED...

EO, NOT JUST ANYONE CAN BECOME A REGULAR FRAME SIMPLY BY USING A CODE.

STOP !

I REMEMBER THE DAY YOUR GRANDMOTHERS' GRANDMOTHERS WERE BORN LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY.

AND THEY ARE EXTREMELY CRUEL...

AND AS SHIO SAID, EVEN IF WE DID HAVE TWO REGULAR FRAMES, WE WOULD STILL BE NO MATCH FOR REBEDOA.

I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF LOSING MY FAMILY. NOT A SINGLE ONE OF YOU...

I BELIEVE WE HAVE THE RESOLVE TO FIGHT IF WE ABSOLUTELY MUST, BUT WE CANNOT.

LET'S LEAVE THIS CASTLE. WE'LL MIGRATE.

I'M SORRY. IT'S MY FAULT IT'S COME TO THIS...

ALL OF YOU, COME HERE.

IT'S NO ONE'S FAULT.

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT. THE WORLD IS VAST.

THERE ARE MANY PLACES WHERE REBEDOA WON'T FIND US.

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THIS DAY CAME.

ZEZO...

WE'LL BUILD AN EVEN BETTER CASTLE NEXT TIME.

HE HAS PROTECTED OUR CLAN FOR 300 YEARS.

There, there.

WAAH

IF A PIPE ISN'T LABELED, YOU CAN NARROW DOWN WHAT TYPE IT IS BY THE SOUND IT MAKES.

HE WAS LIKE A PARENT TO US AND TAUGHT US EVERYTHING, FROM HUNTING TO HOW TO WALK IN THE RUINS.

LOOK, THIS IS A GAS SYSTEM PIPE.

KONK

KONK

BUT THAT WASN'T THE CASE.

OKAY!

HE'S WISE AND STRONG, AND I TRULY BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULDN'T DO.

ETHEROW!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

I SEE ...

THIS IS REALLY GOOD PIPE FRUIT!

WE SET OFF IN THE MORNING.

YOU REALLY LOVED THIS CASTLE, DIDN'T YOU, DEINA. I'M SORRY.

YOU REALLY ARE THE BEST SHARP-SHOOTER THERE IS!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU SAVED EVERYONE, ETHEROW!

IT'D BE BAD IF YOUR STUDENTS SAW YOU OUTSIDE WITHOUT AN OXYGEN TANK, RIGHT?

WELL, SHALL WE GO INSIDE NOW? IT'S GETTING HARD TO BREATHE OUT HERE.

KEEP WHAT WE CARRY TO A MINIMUM.

WE CAN GET OXYGEN AND FOOD AS WE TRAVEL.

WHUP

THANKS TO THE HEAT-RESISTANT SHEETING I GOT FROM GRANDPA!

OOH!

YEAH!

EO! WE HEARD YOU TOOK A SHOT FROM AN IMPERIAL LENS CANNON, BUT YOU'RE UNHURT?

HA HA HA!

ALL RIGHT!

THUMP

YOU GUYS, QUIT GOOFING OFF!

SHIO! STOP!

DO YOU GET THAT, YOU SON OF A BITCH?!

IF YOU'D LISTENED TO WHAT MASTER ETHEROW SAID, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS SITUATION!

HEY!

QUIT LAUGHING LIKE AN IDIOT!

I'LL PASS.

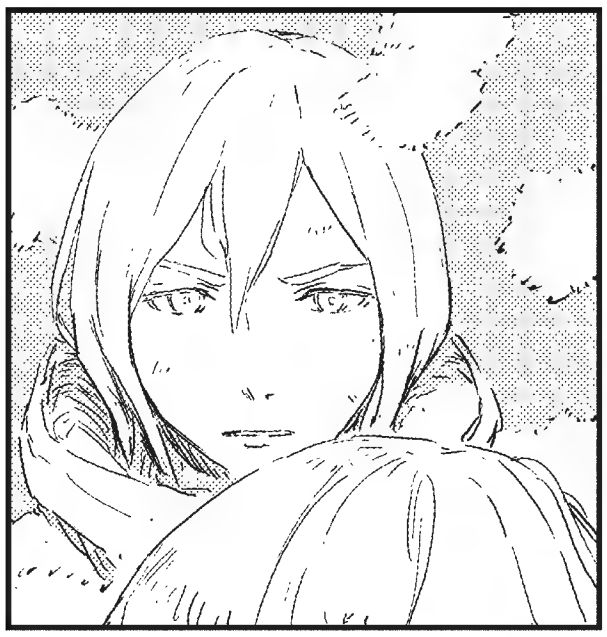
KRIK KRIK

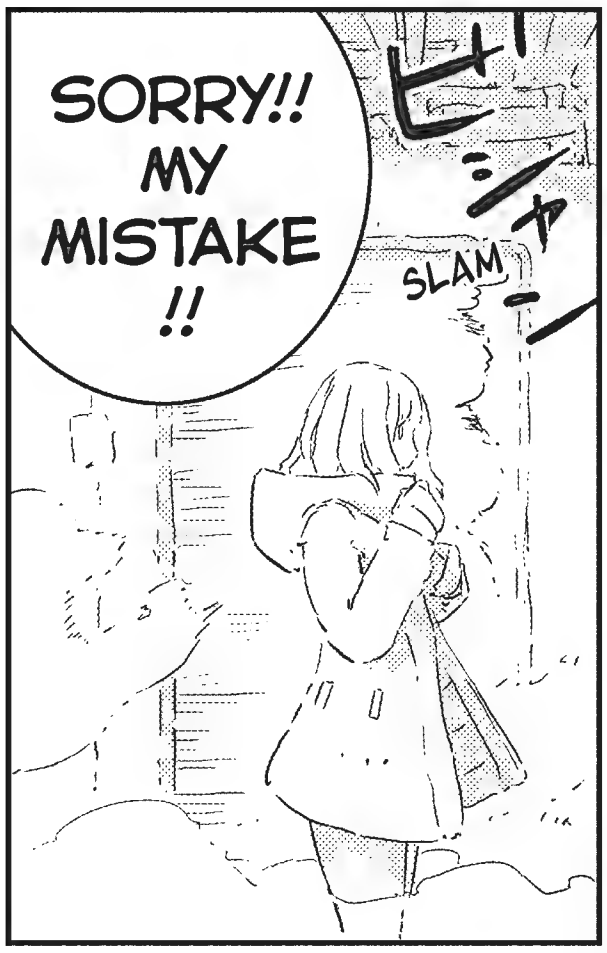
ETHEROW, THEY'RE GONNA TURN OFF THE HOT WATER PIPES. GO HAVE A BATH.

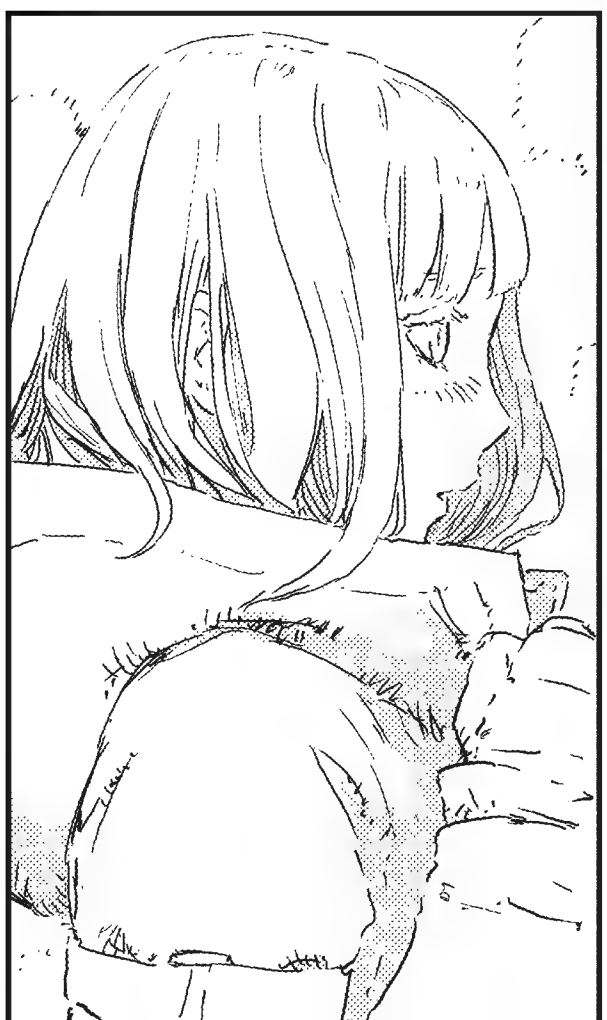
GO BATHE.

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'LL GET HOT WATER AGAIN.

SHRAK




SORRY!!
MY
MISTAKE
!!
SLAM





SHIFT CHANGE, ETHEROW.

HAAH ...

ZZMM

HAAH

ZZMMZMM

HAAAH

PLEASE DON'T BLAME YOURSELF SO MUCH.

SIR.

HAAH

HAAH

ズズズ

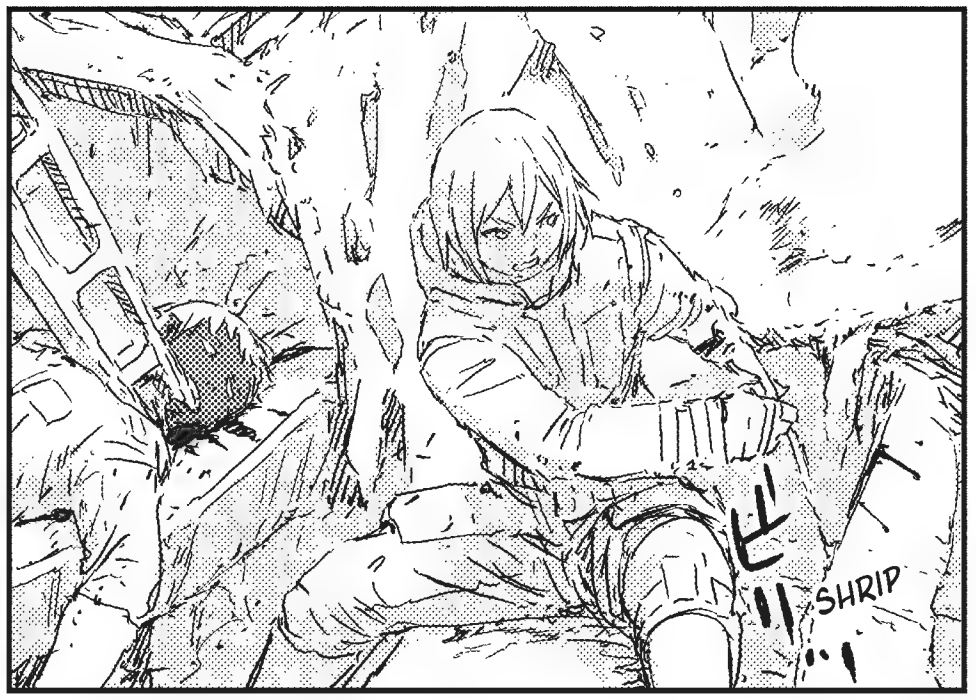
ZZZMMMMM

THE AIR IS SO THIN ...

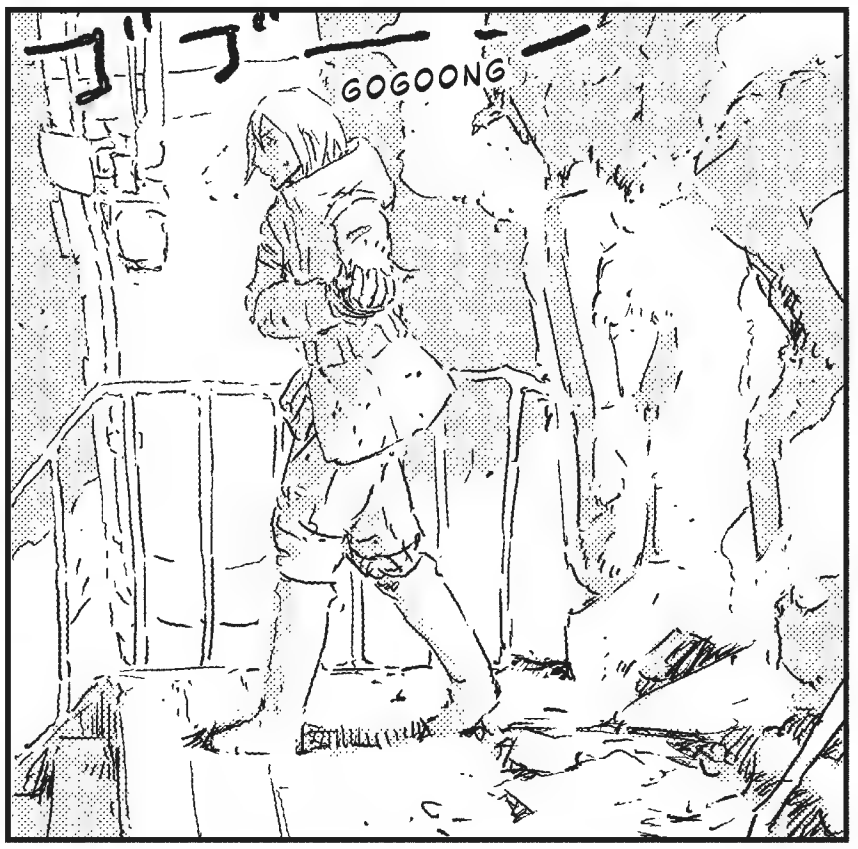
WAAAH !!

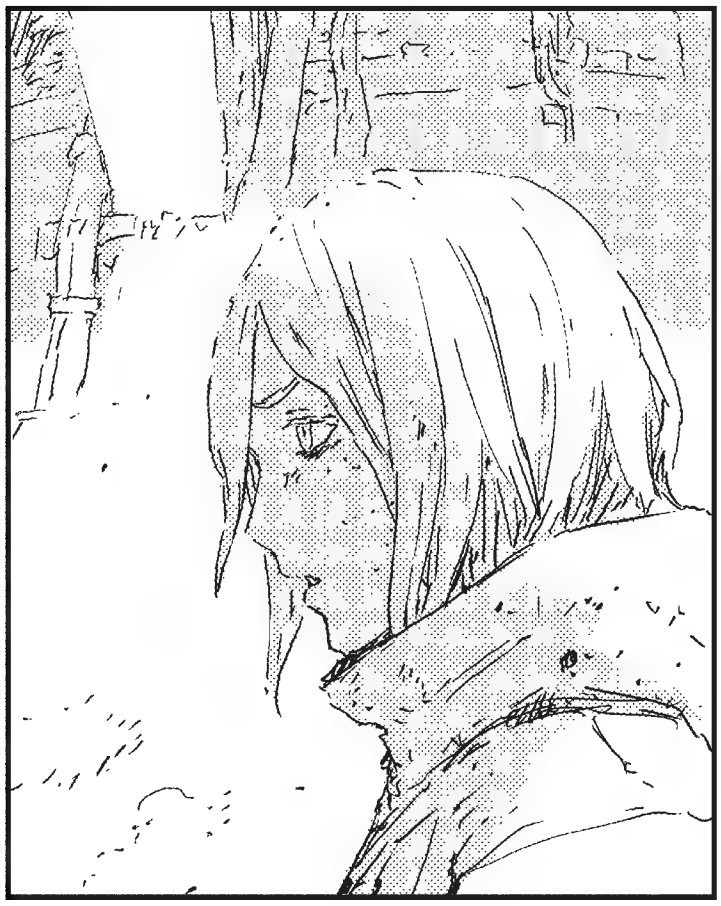
SHIO !!

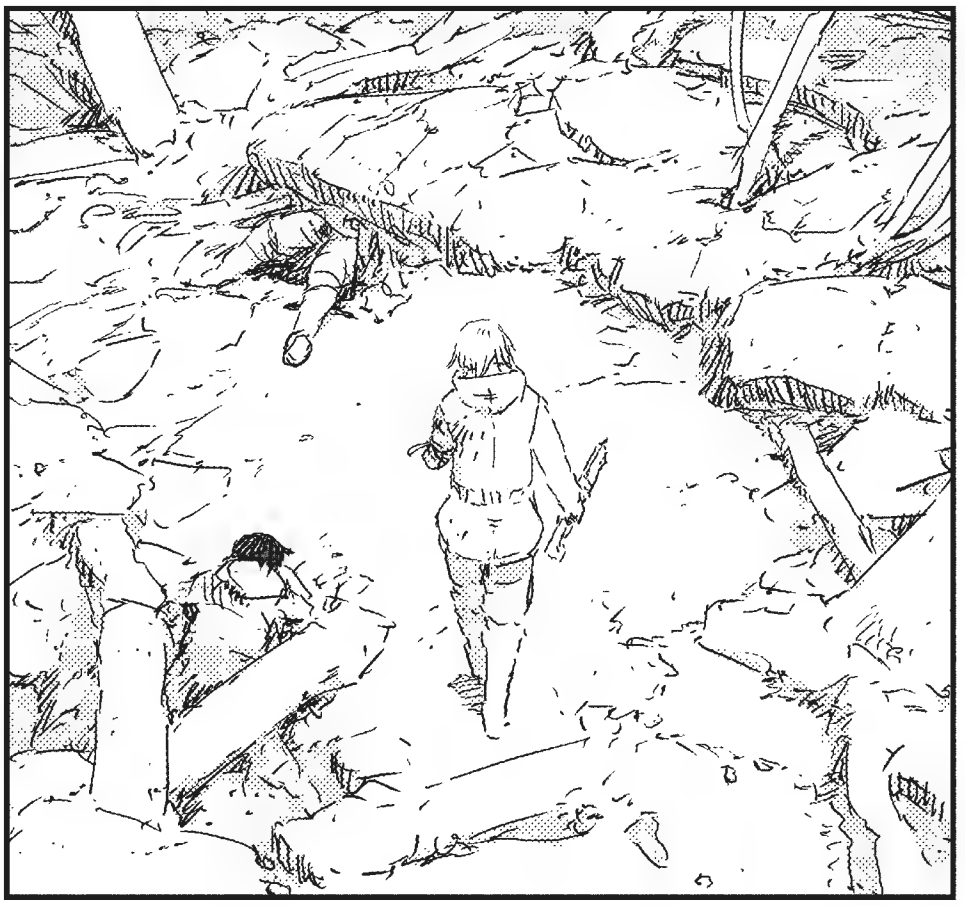

SHIO
...


SHRIP


WRRG


GOGOONG





ゴ" ゴ" ゴ" ゴ"

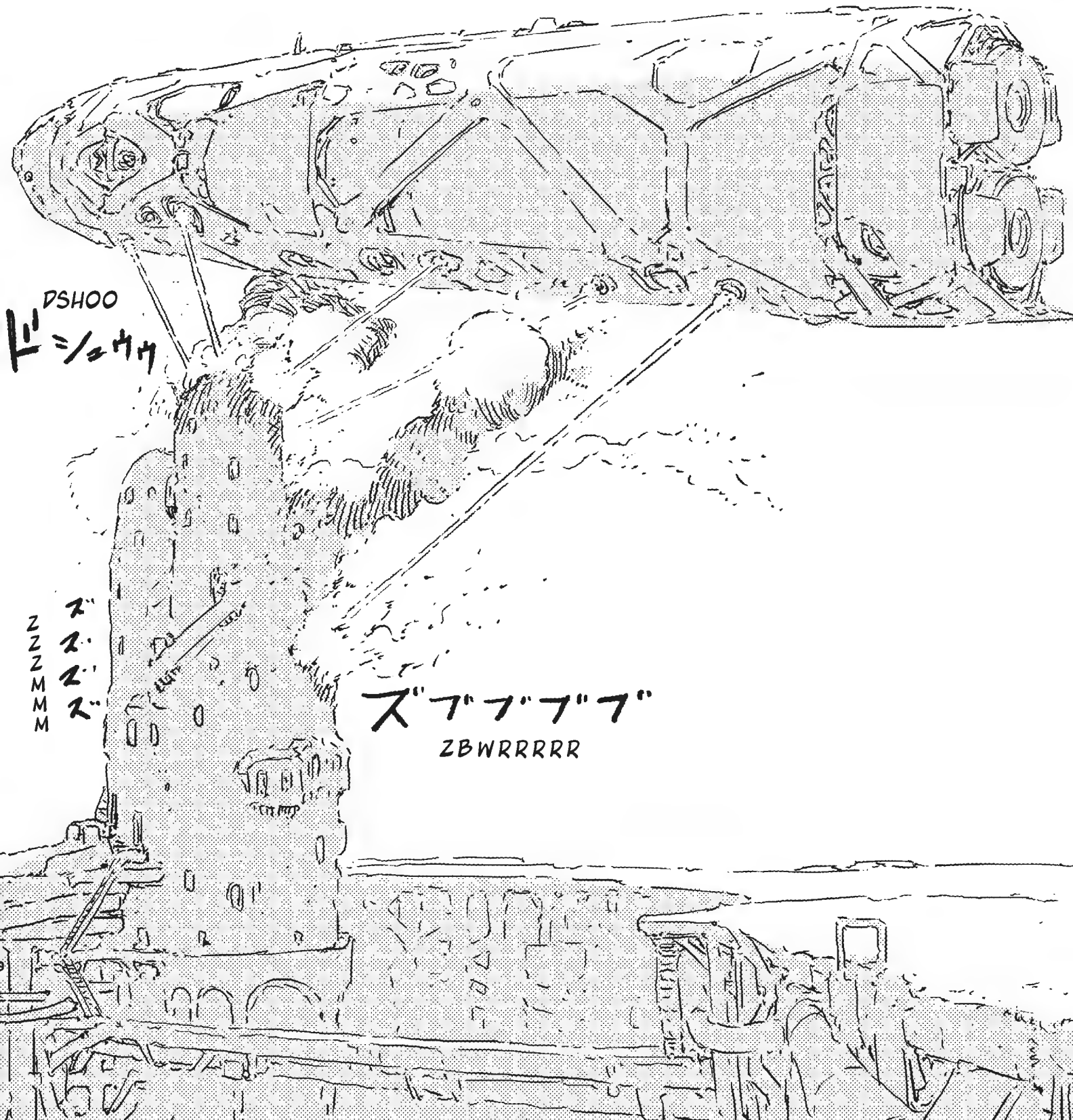
ROOOAAARR

ビ"イイイ イイ

VWEEEEEEE EN

ビィン・・・・

VWEEN



ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

ROOOA-A-ARRRR

ガゴーン

GCHUNG

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

ドガーン

GAGAAANG

THEY'RE HERE!

CHING

KABLAM

VWUM

VWUM

POWW

BASHT

STOP IT !!

BLAM

ガーガー

BAM

BRATATATA

SPATCH

EO
...

WHUMP

!

TAKE THIS AND JOIN UP WITH THEM.

DEINA AND THE OTHERS ARE HEADED FOR THE ESCAPE ROUTE.

ZEZO!

ETHE-ROW!

I'LL ARMOR UP AND FIGHT. IF YOU'RE NEAR ME, YOU'LL GET IN MY WAY.

I'M STAYING, TOO!

KRAK パキ

KRIK ピシ

SNAP パキ

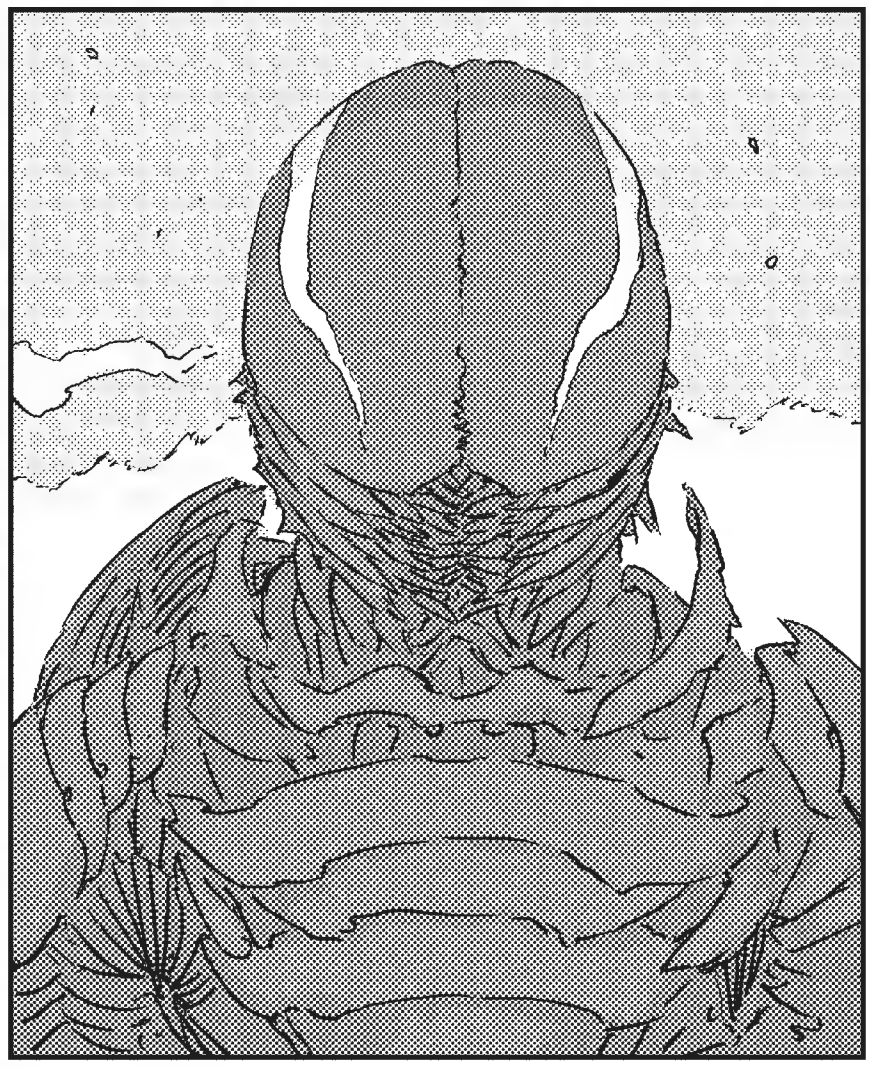
HSSHH

!!

THERE'S NO TIME. NOW, GO!

VSSSHHH


VWUM
VVWWM



KREAK

BASLAM

POWW

GAKONG
ガゴーン

BAKRAK

HSSHH

HSSHH

GAPOW

KRUNCH

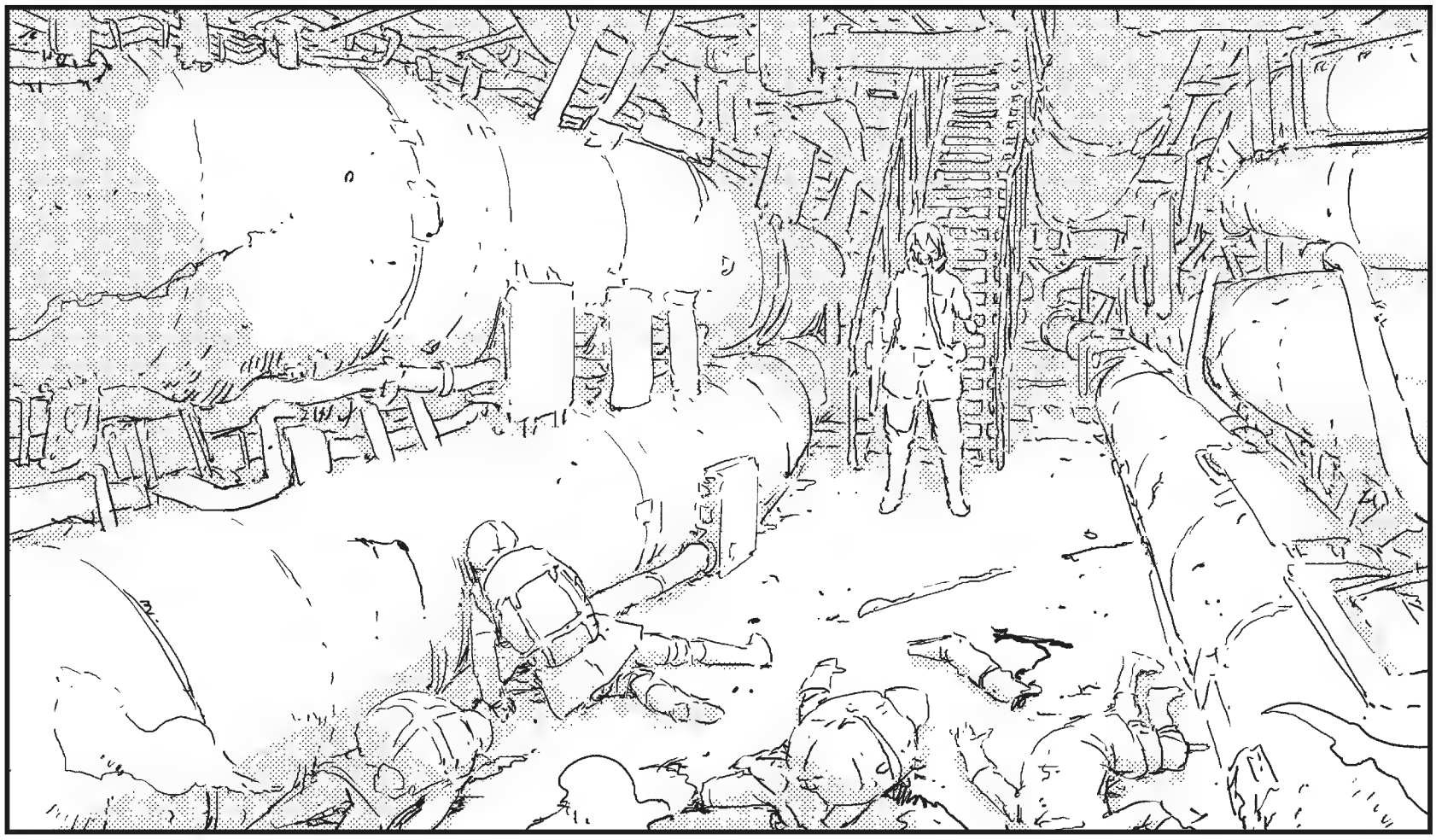
CHOOM

GABOOOO

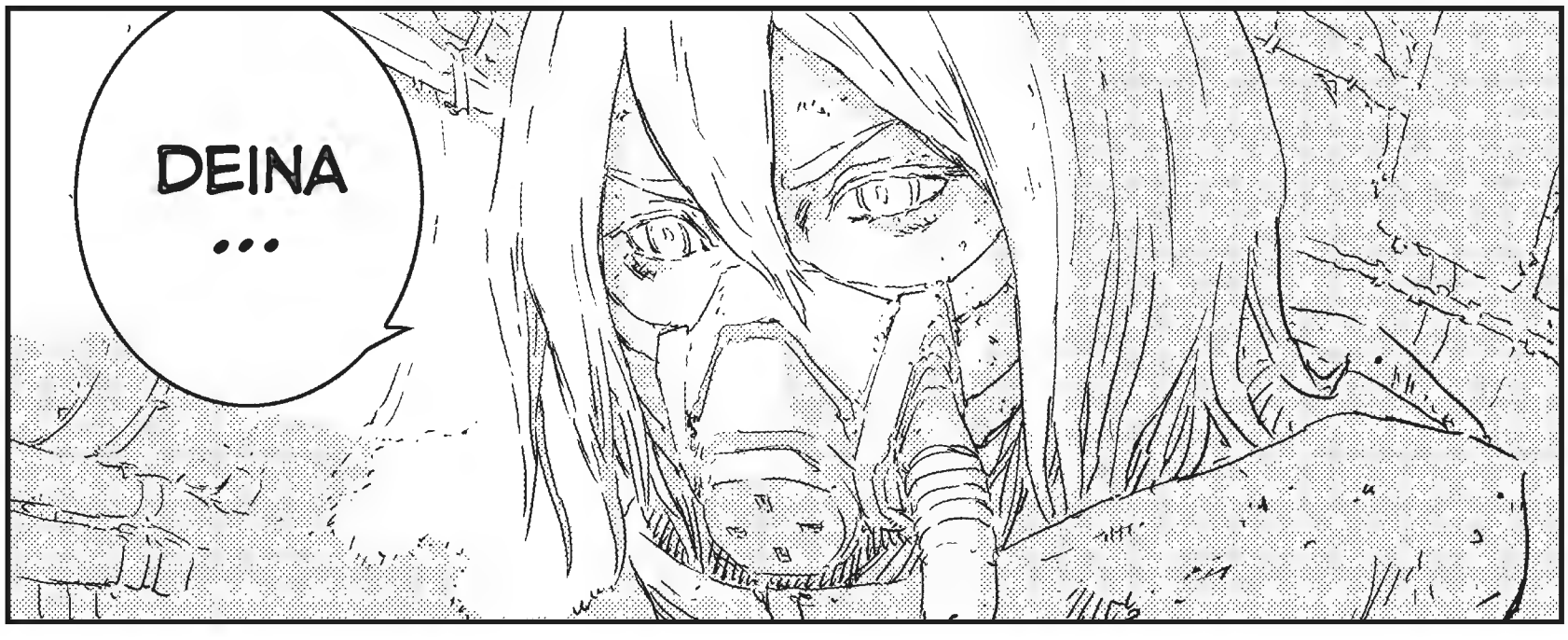
OOOM

HSSSSSSHH

DIRECT HIT WITH ANTI-REGULAR FRAME ROUND!!





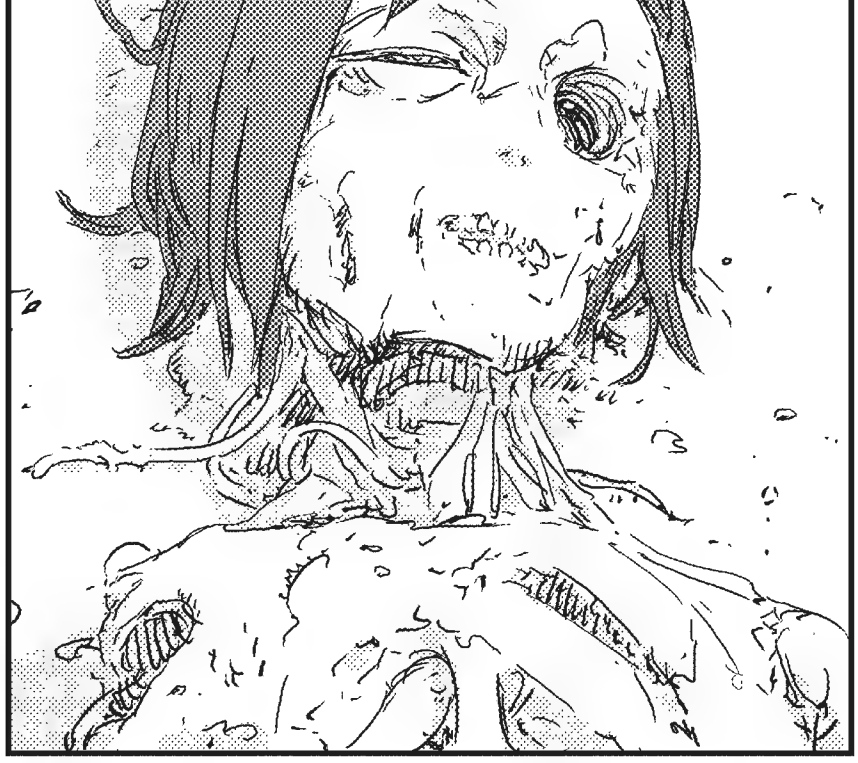

DEINA
...

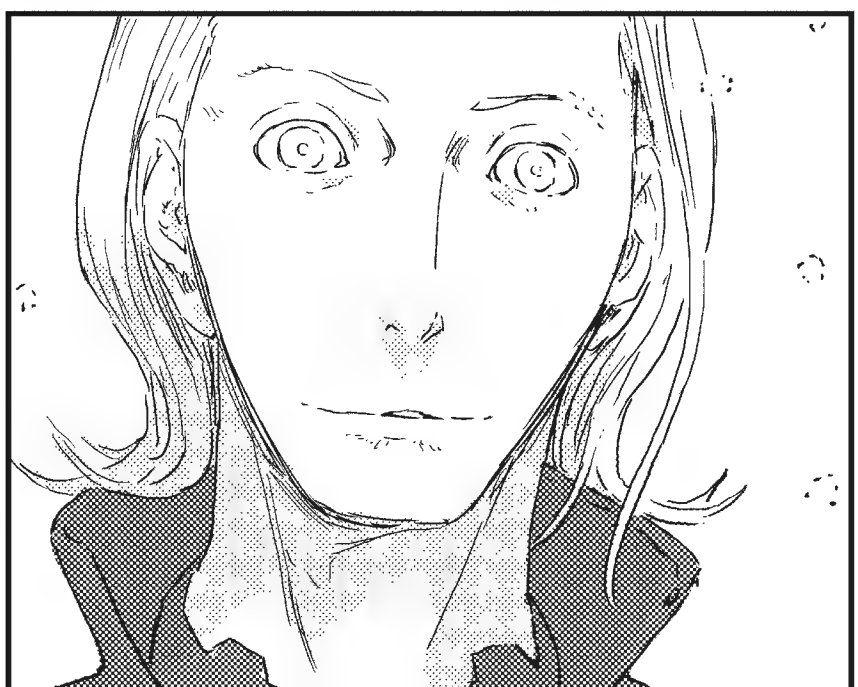
AND I'D BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO FIGHTING A REGULAR FRAME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES.

ZEZO OF THE WHITE DIAMOND BEAM. DO NOT DISAPPOINT ME!

LORD YIYU, THE AREA IS NOW UNDER OUR CONTROL.

TO BE DEFEATED BY A WEAPON LIKE THAT... AS A FELLOW REGULAR FRAME, IT EMBARRASSES ME!





WELL, IN ANY CASE, WHERE IS *IT*?

SHKAACH

SHRIP

NOW, ANSWER ME. WHERE IS IT?

NOW YOU CAN SEE CLEARLY, CAN'T YOU?

THIS EYELID'S IN THE WAY.

...

KRNCH

KTCH

AAAUUGGH!!

I'M SORRY... EVERYONE ...

TELL ME NOW AND I'LL SPARE THE REST.

OR WILL YOU CONTINUE TO WATCH MY WORKS OF ART FROM WHERE YOU ARE?

KRIK ヒ°キキ KRAK

I SEE.

PAAH

!!

ペキ ペキ
KRITCH KTCH

...

HAVING YOUR BLOOD FREEZE IS AGONY.

GAAAAAAH

I AM THE STRONGEST REGULAR FRAME, AFTER THE EMPEROR!

THEY SAID IT WOULD TAKE TEN YEARS TO CONQUER THE NORTHERN COMPOSITE SLAB REGION, AND I DID IT IN JUST ONE.

BECAUSE I AM EXCEP-TIONAL.

AAAAGH!

DO YOU KNOW WHY I WAS DEPLOYED TO THIS FILTHY BACKWATER?

YOU'RE VERY DULL, YOU KNOW ...

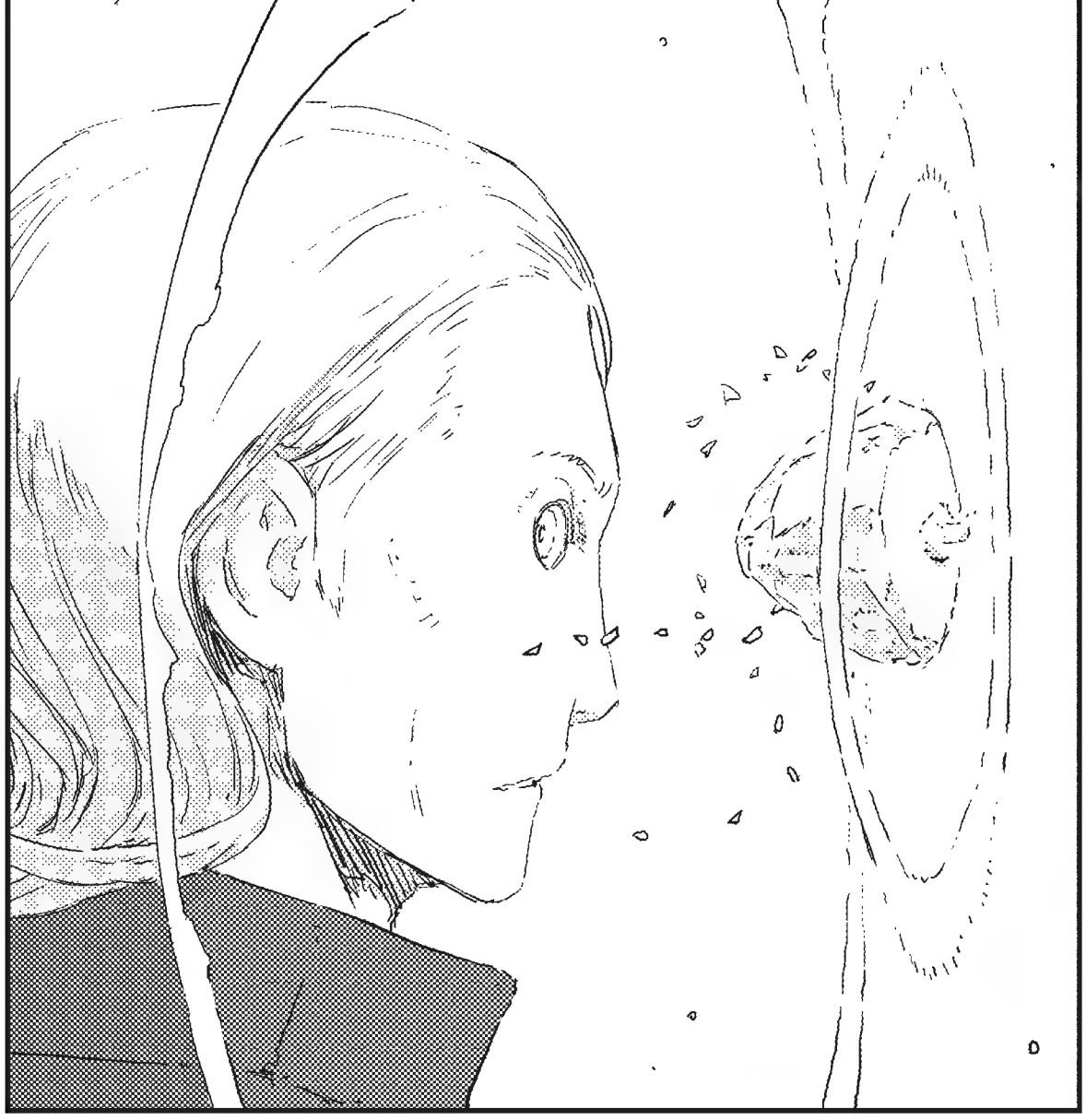
SO FIGHT HARDER, YOU BASTARD!

IF I WERE KILLED, IT WOULD BE A HUGE LOSS FOR REBEDOA.

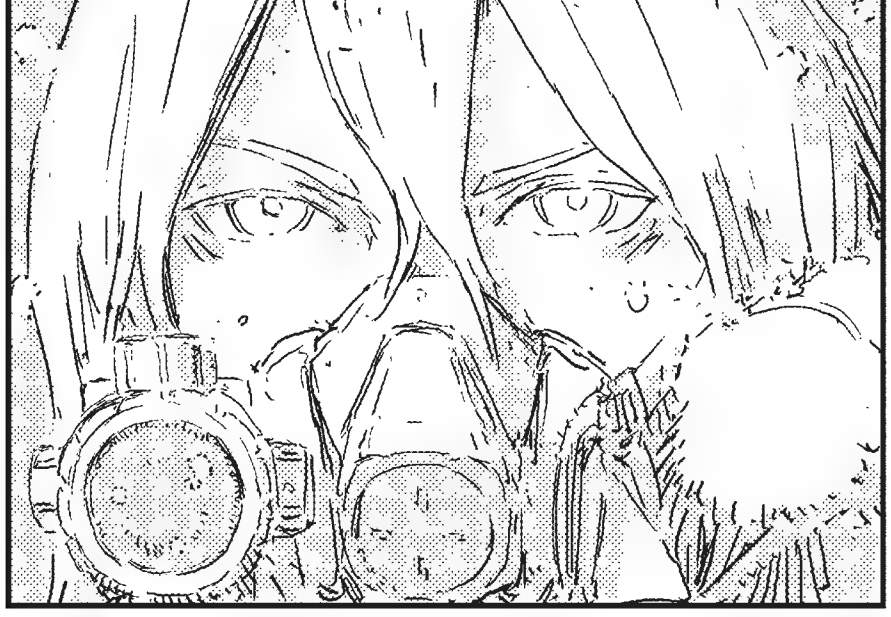
IF I CAN JUST GET A BULLET INSIDE HIS CRANIUM, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DAMAGE HIS BRAIN, THE WEAK POINT OF FRAMES...

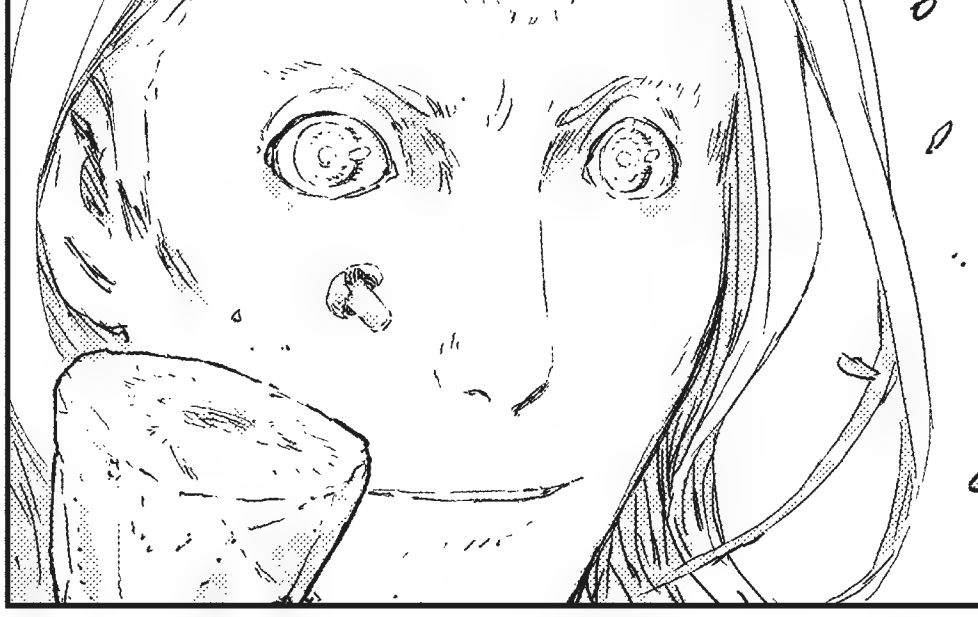
A BULLET CAN'T PIERCE THE SKULL OF A REGULAR FRAME, BUT IF I CAN HIT HIS EYE SOCKET...

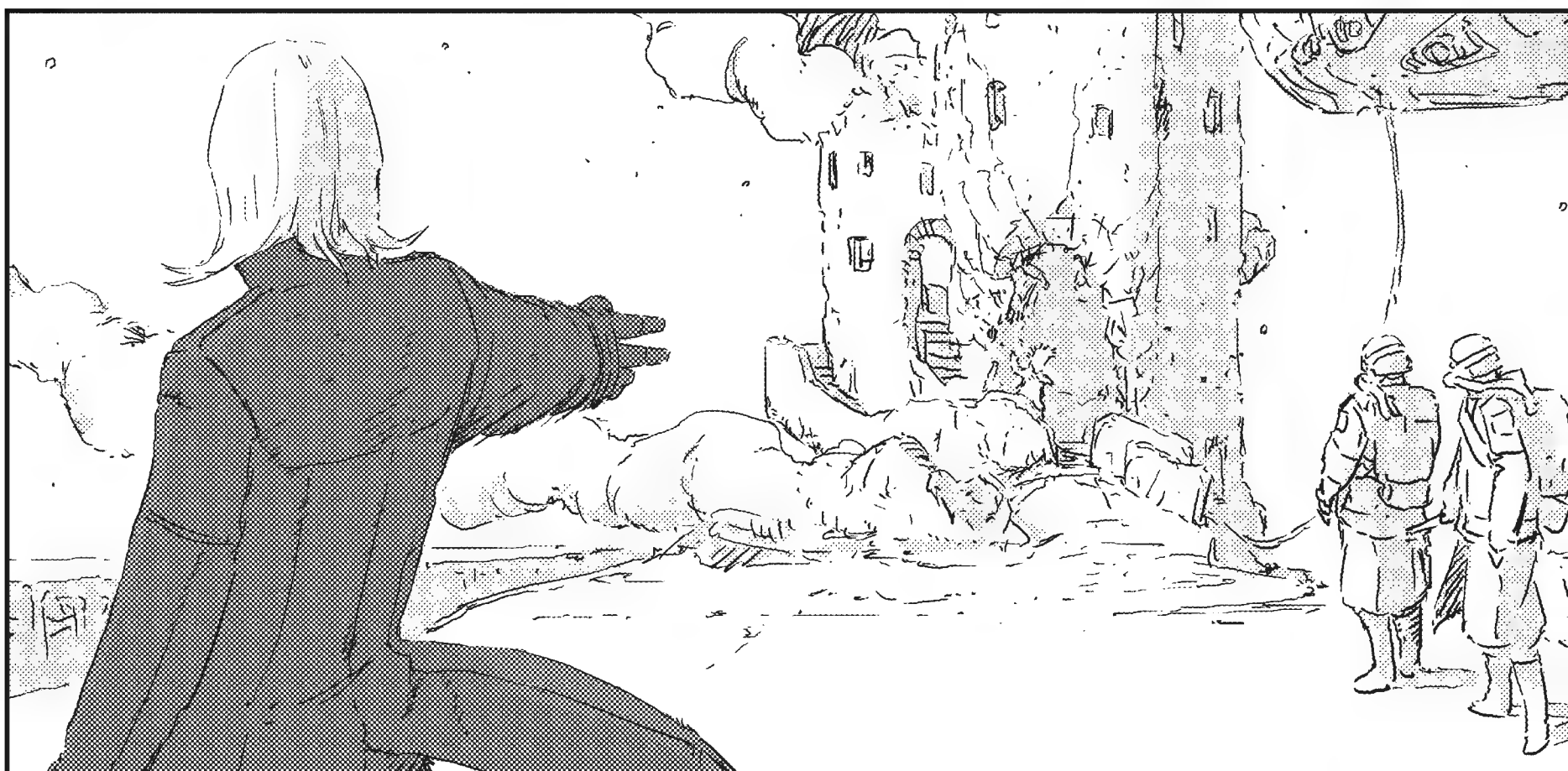
PLEASE STRIKE HOME !!



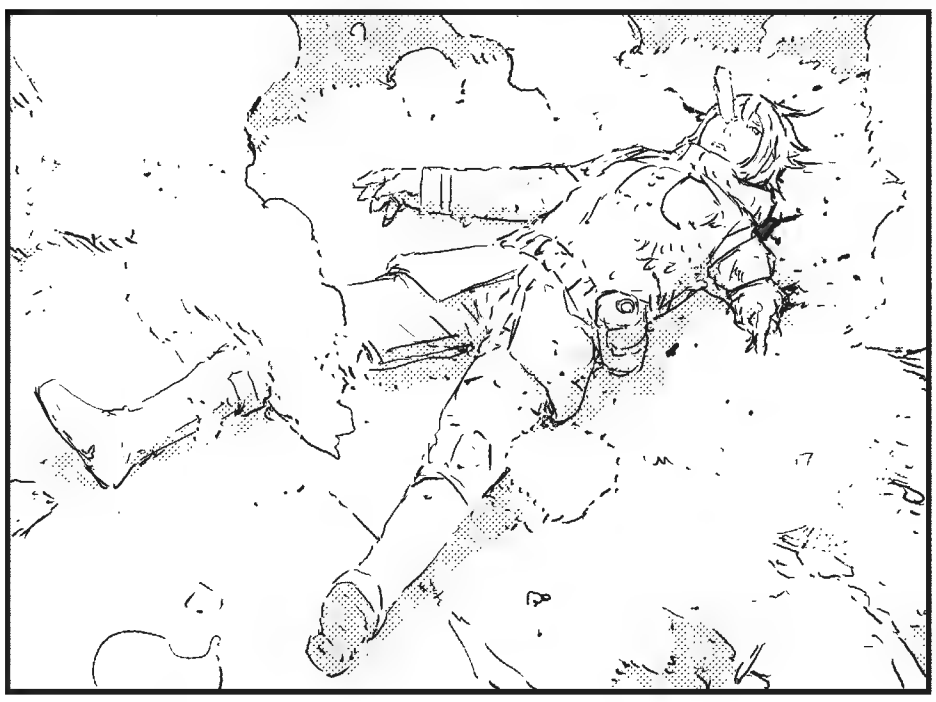

BACHINNK

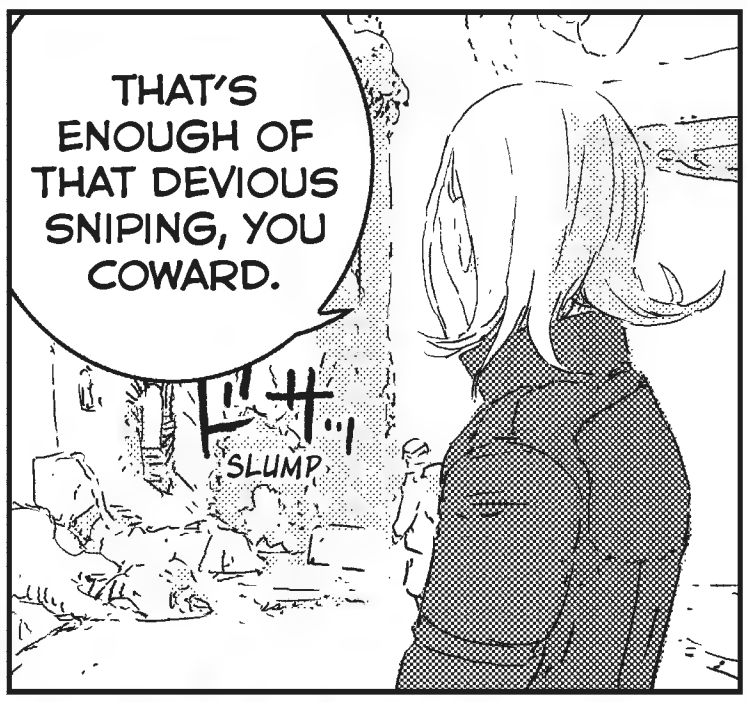











THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT DEVIOUS SNIPING, YOU COWARD.
SLUMP



...
...AM I DEAD?

...ME?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
DO MY WORDS REACH YOU?

MY NAME IS TITANIA.

WHO ARE YOU?

NO...
BUT BY THE TIME THAT SNOWFLAKE LANDS ON YOUR EYE, YOUR BRAIN WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION.

USE THE CODE.

THE CODE... YOU MEAN, BECOME A REGULAR FRAME?!

THERE IS ONE WAY FOR YOU TO GET OUT OF THIS WITHOUT DYING. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS, DON'T YOU?

FOR THE MOMENT, I HAVE ACCELERATED YOUR BRAIN'S PROCESSING SPEED TO CONVERSE WITH YOU, BUT WE STILL DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO LISTEN CLOSELY.

I DON'T. WHAT IS IT?

YES! OF COURSE I WILL!

I... WILL BECOME A REGULAR FRAME...?

YES. YOUR BODY WILL BE TRANS-MUTED INTO A REGULAR FRAME.

YOUR COMPATIBILITY WITH THE CODE IS 53%. CERTAINLY NOT A GOOD FIGURE, BUT I'LL MAKE IT WORK.

UNDER-STOOD.

KASHNK

LOVEEEN

KREEE

EEEEEE

HAS SOMEONE USED THE CODE...?

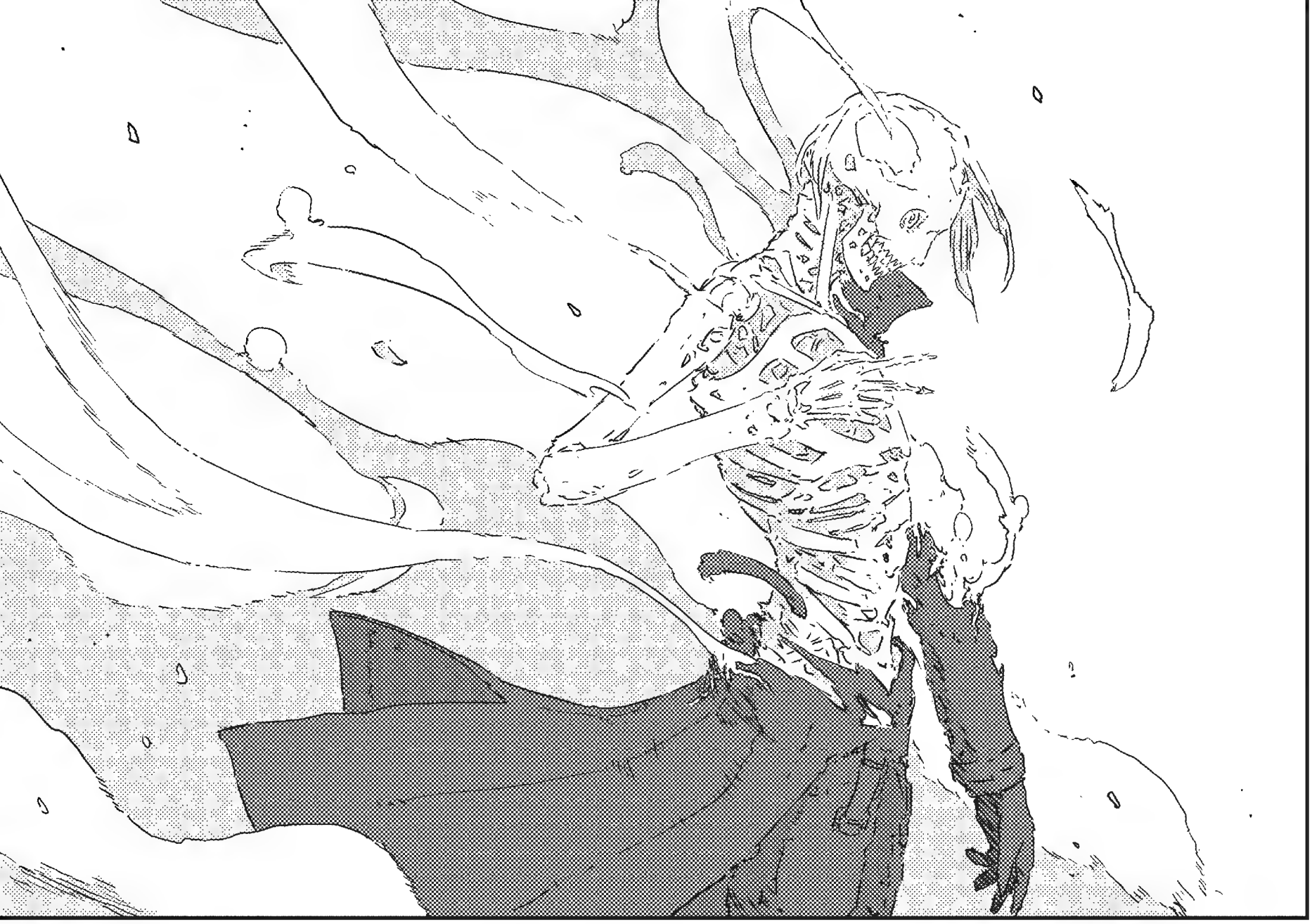
THE TRANS-MUTATION LIGHT.

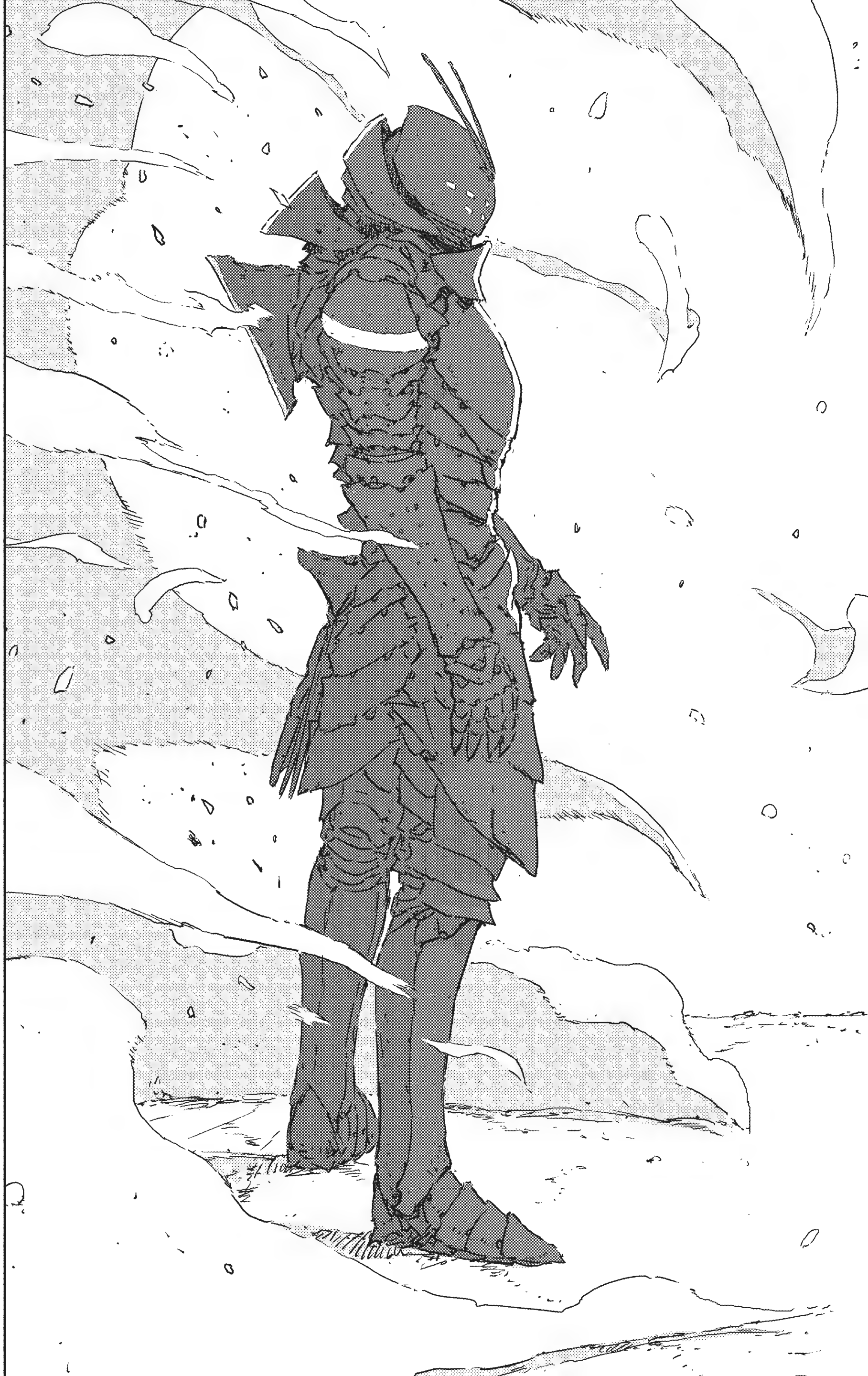
THAT'S THERE TOO.

WRRG

WHICH WOULD MEAN ...

BAAM





H-HOW... DO I DO THAT...?

YIYU HAS ARMORED UP! YOU NEED TO TRANSFORM YOUR PLACENTA AT ONCE!

THUT

WHAT AN UTTER FAILURE.

TCH...

SHIT! I CAN'T EVEN PROPERLY MOVE AROUND IN THIS BODY!

YOU DARE TO WASTE THE CODE!

PKYOOM


110
SKASH

ARMOR UP QUICKLY, ETHEROW!

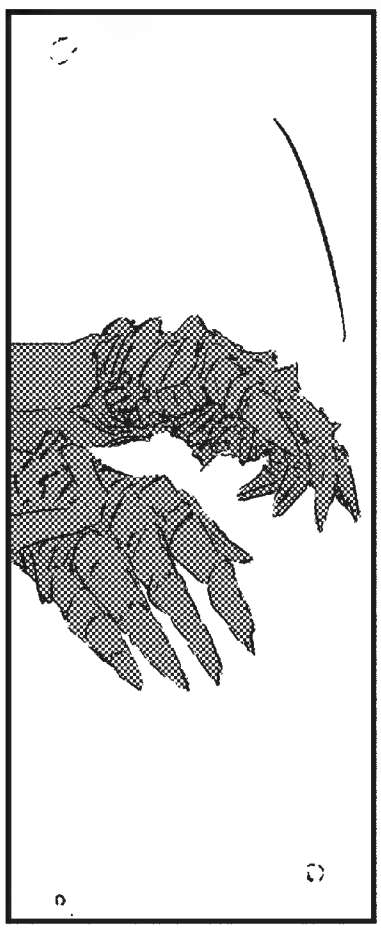
THAT'S MY LIMIT.

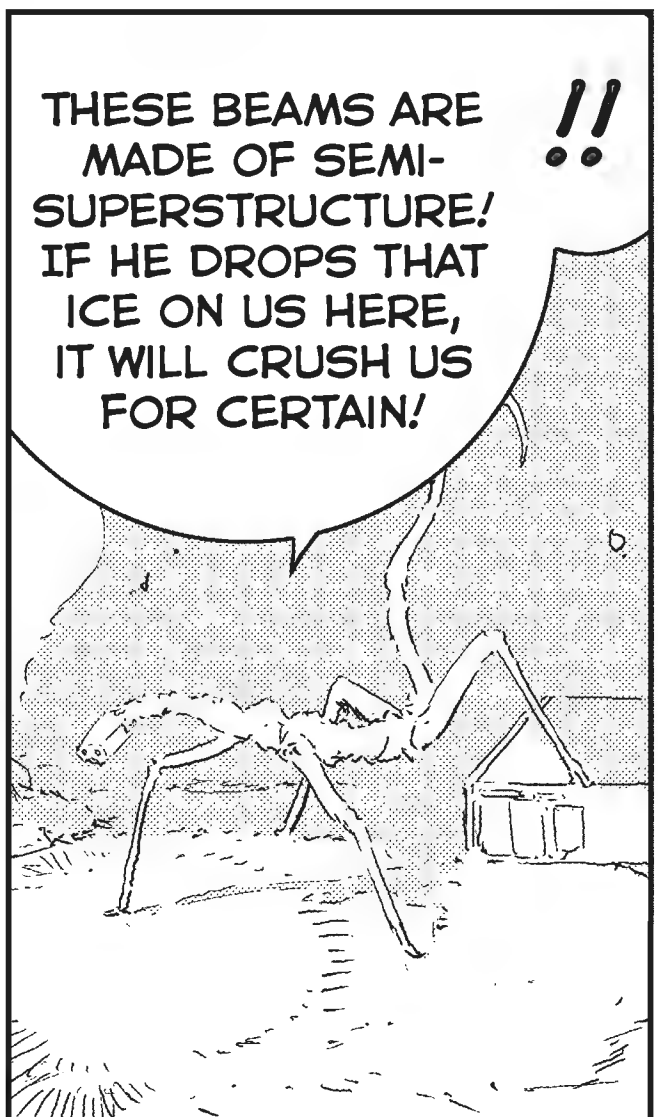
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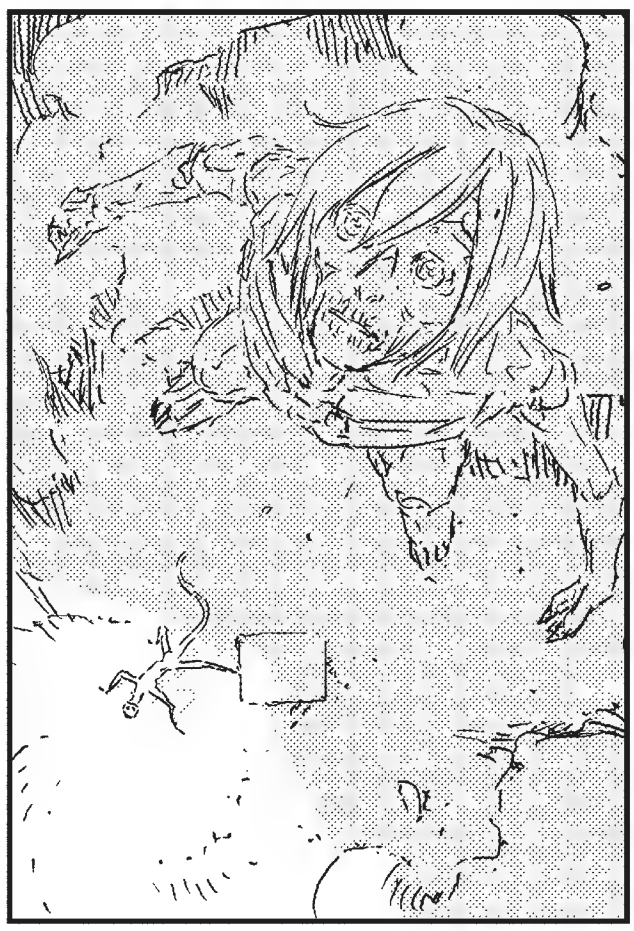
I'VE PAID THE PRICE TOO MANY TIMES FOR TRYING TO TAKE YOU ALIVE.

EITHER WAY, I WILL SHOW NO MERCY THIS TIME.

IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT, TITANIA?!




THESE BEAMS ARE MADE OF SEMI-SUPERSTRUCTURE! IF HE DROPS THAT ICE ON US HERE, IT WILL CRUSH US FOR CERTAIN!
!!



CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
GADOOOMM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
BWA HA HA HA
I COMPLETELY FLATTENED THAT HOVEL!
WOOHOO!! OH, HOW INCREDIBLE !!

KREAK

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

ZZMMM

MM

OH HO ...

GRUNK


GAKUNG
GONG
KUNNG

I DID IT!

ONCE YOU RUN OUT, YOUR ARMOR WILL DIS-ENGAGE.

YES. ARMORING UP DRASTICALLY CONSUMES HAIGHS PARTICLES.

WORDS ARE APPEARING IN MY FIELD OF VISION?! 60 SECONDS UNTIL ACTIVITY CUT OFF?!

ACTIVITY CUT OFF IN:
60 SECONDS

HAIGHS PARTICLES REMAINING:

YOU DON'T HAVE SUFFICIENT HAIGHS PARTICLES, AND YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM YET!!!

YIYU HAS KILLED SO MANY OF MY REGULAR FRAME FRIENDS!!

YOU NEED TO RUN AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE YOU RUN OUT!

HAIGHS PARTICLES? SO I'VE JUST GOT TO KILL HIM BEFORE I RUN OUT, RIGHT?

HE'S ABOVE YOU!!

BOOM

SHING

SHING

SHING

CHAGROKK

GDOOM

GDOOM

GDOOM

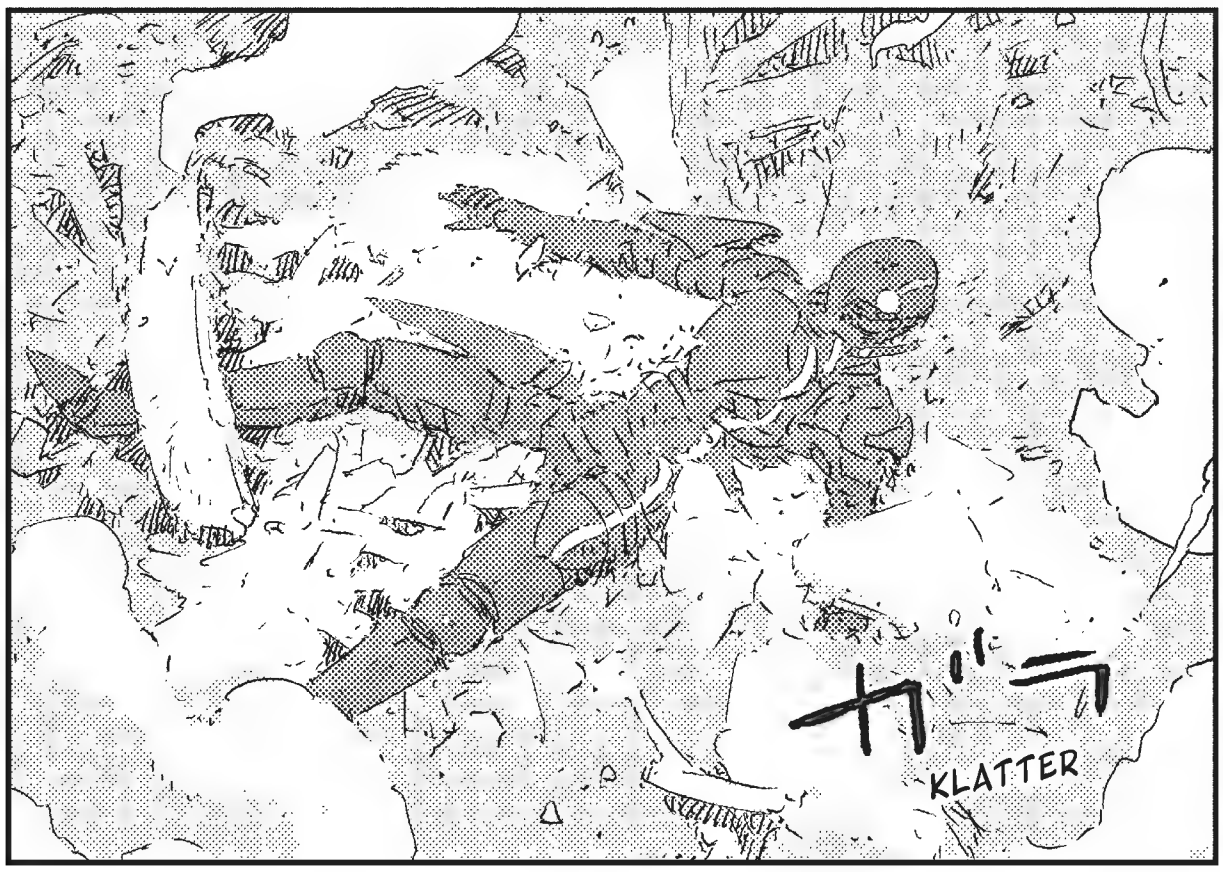
GDOOM

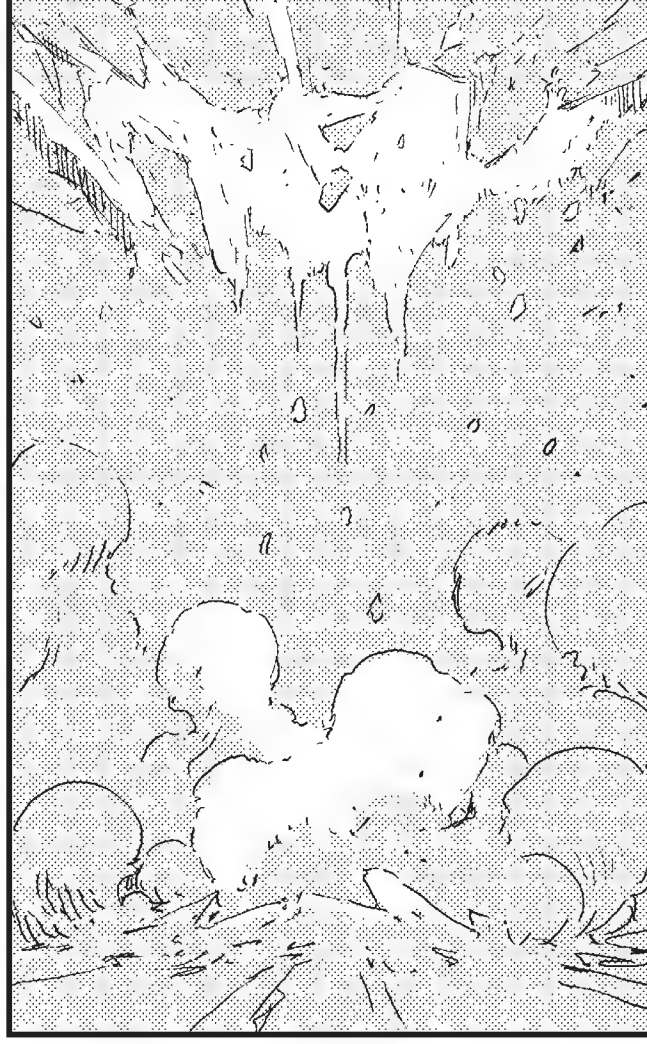
GDOOM

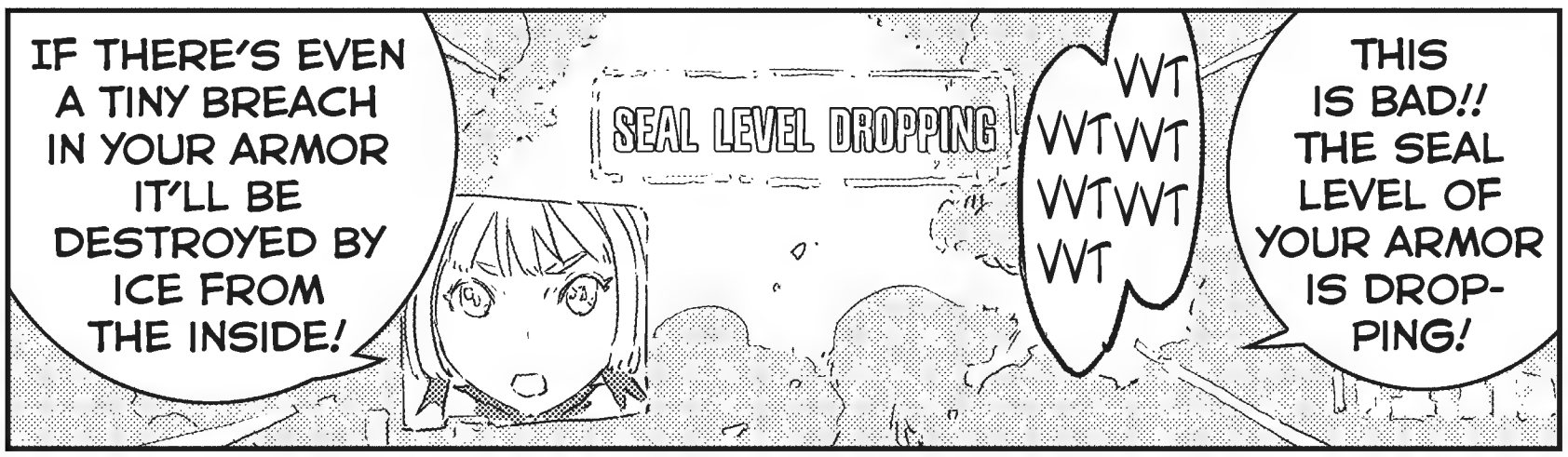
GDOOM

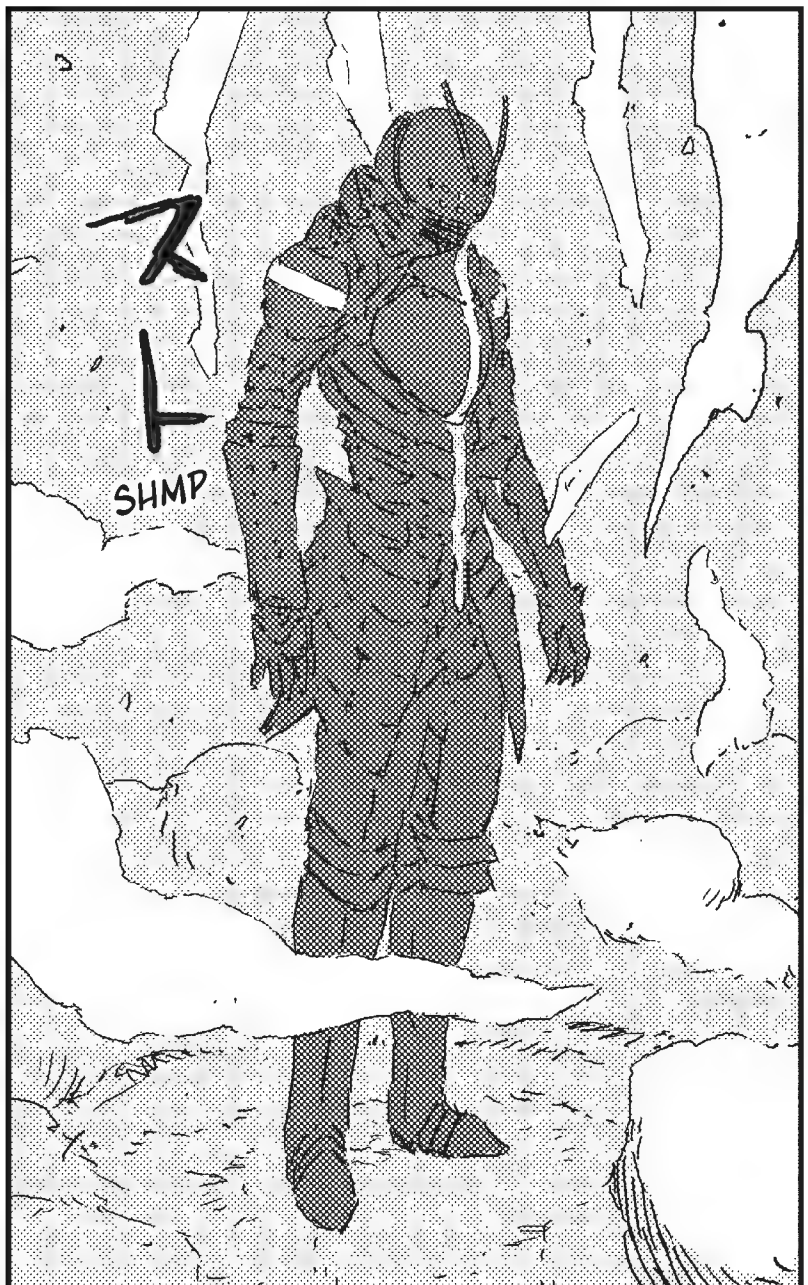
ズズーン

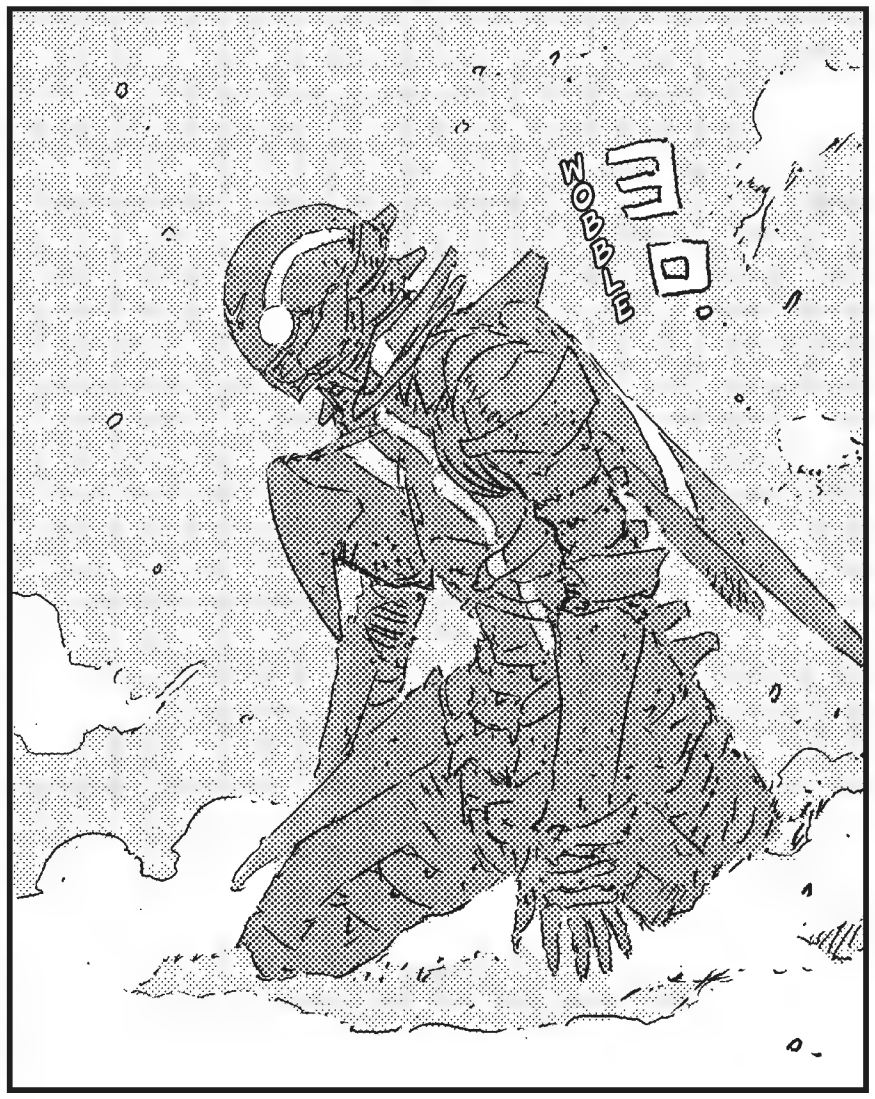
ZZZMMMM


KLATTER




IF THERE'S EVEN A TINY BREACH IN YOUR ARMOR IT'LL BE DESTROYED BY ICE FROM THE INSIDE!
SEAL LEVEL DROPPING
WT WTWT WTWT WT
THIS IS BAD!! THE SEAL LEVEL OF YOUR ARMOR IS DROP-PING!


SHMP


WOBBLE

HA HA HA HA! WHAT PATHETIC ARMOR. YOU'RE ALREADY IN SHAMBLES.

THAT MEANS THE CODE YOU ACQUIRED WASN'T SUCH A GREAT ONE. IT WAS UTTERLY MEDIOCRE.

HURRY UP AND RUN AWAY WHILE YOU CAN STILL MOVE!

THIS IS HOW HE ALWAYS GAINS THE UPPER HAND!

ETHE-ROW!

THREAT APPROACHIN

ACTIVATING EBTG

GACHINK

A FIRING SYSTEM ?!

WHAT IS IT?!

KWEEEEEEE

AUTOMATIC SELECTION OF ROUNDS TO BE LOADED

PLACENTA

HAIGHS PARTICLES

MAXIMUM AVAILABILITY

A POWER !

IN THAT CASE, I'LL BLAST HIM HEAD-ON TOO!

ピキキキキ

KKRAAKK

KWEEEEEEEE

キィィィィィィ

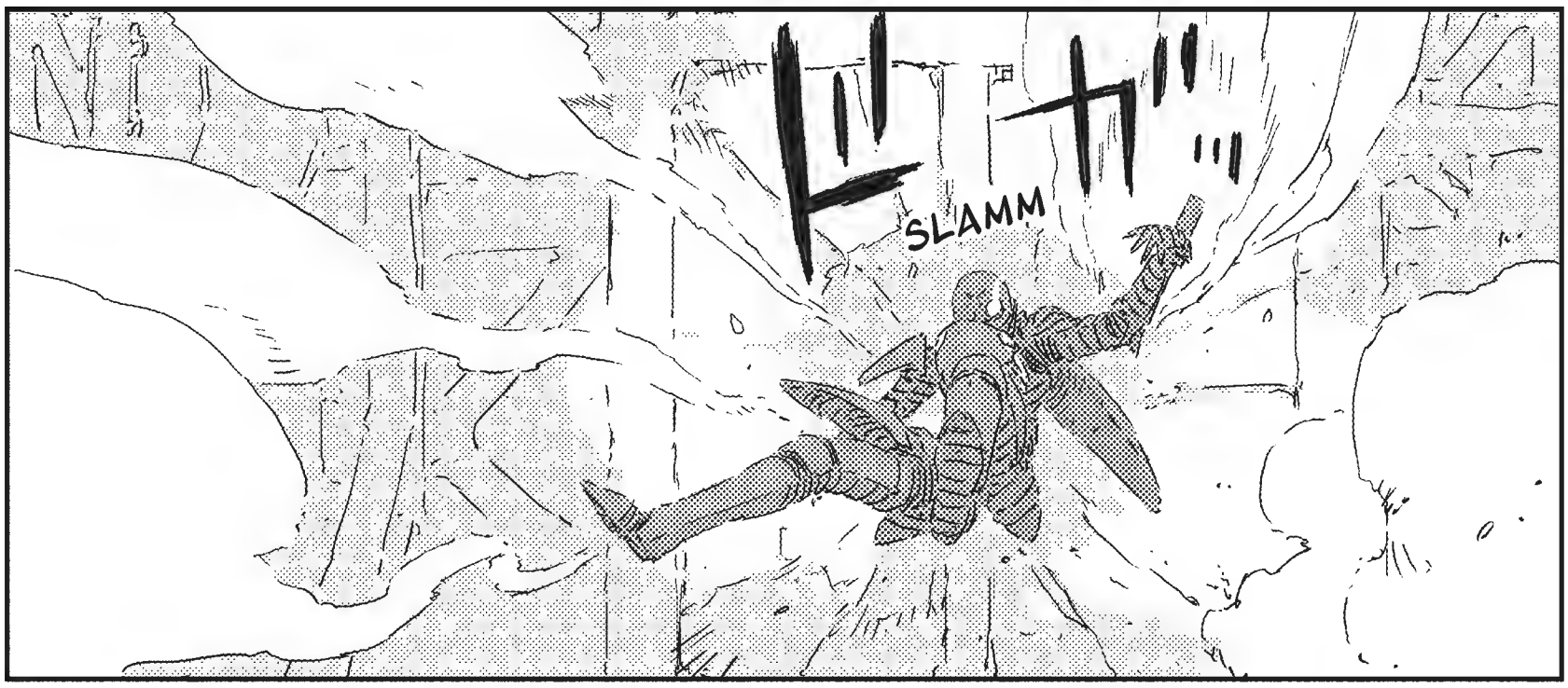
BAKREEEE

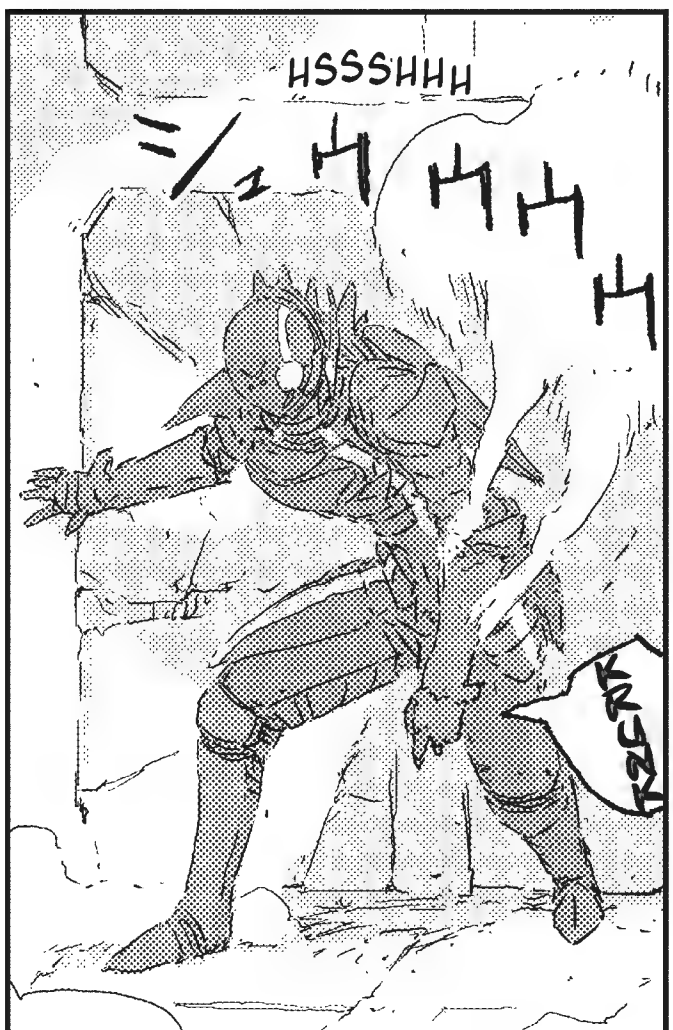
KRKK

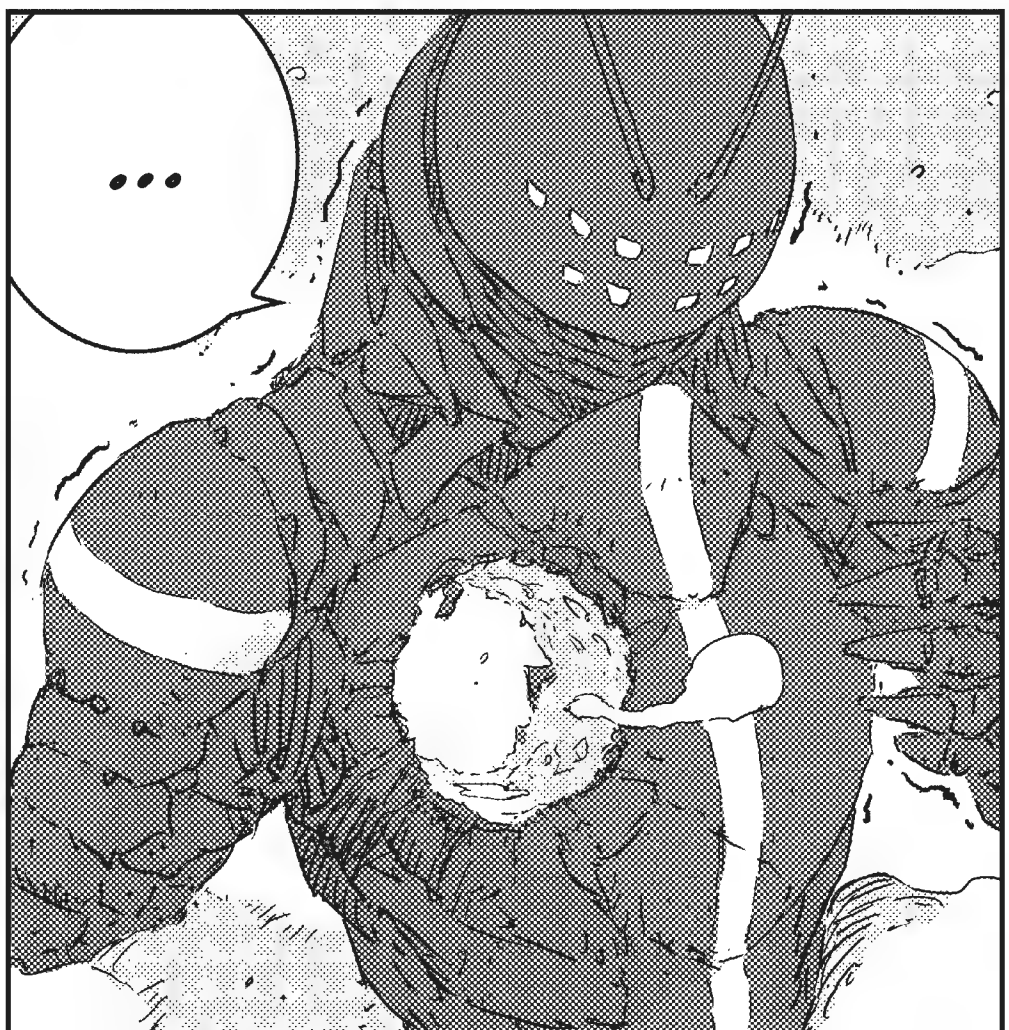
BOOM

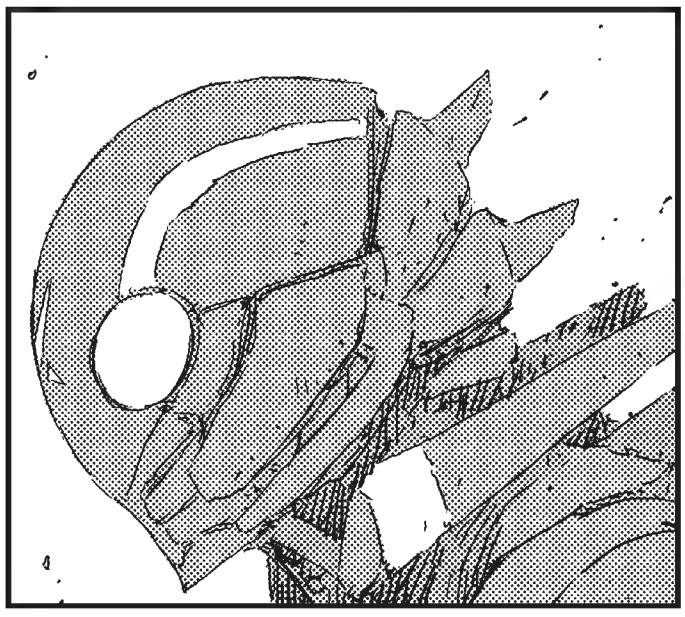


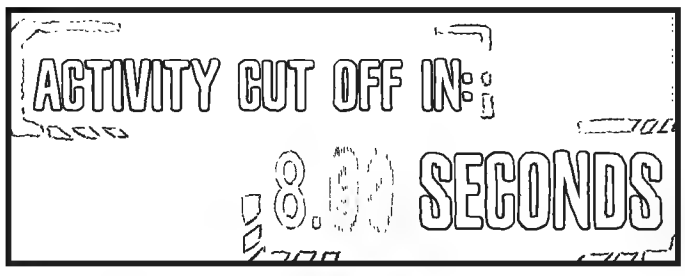


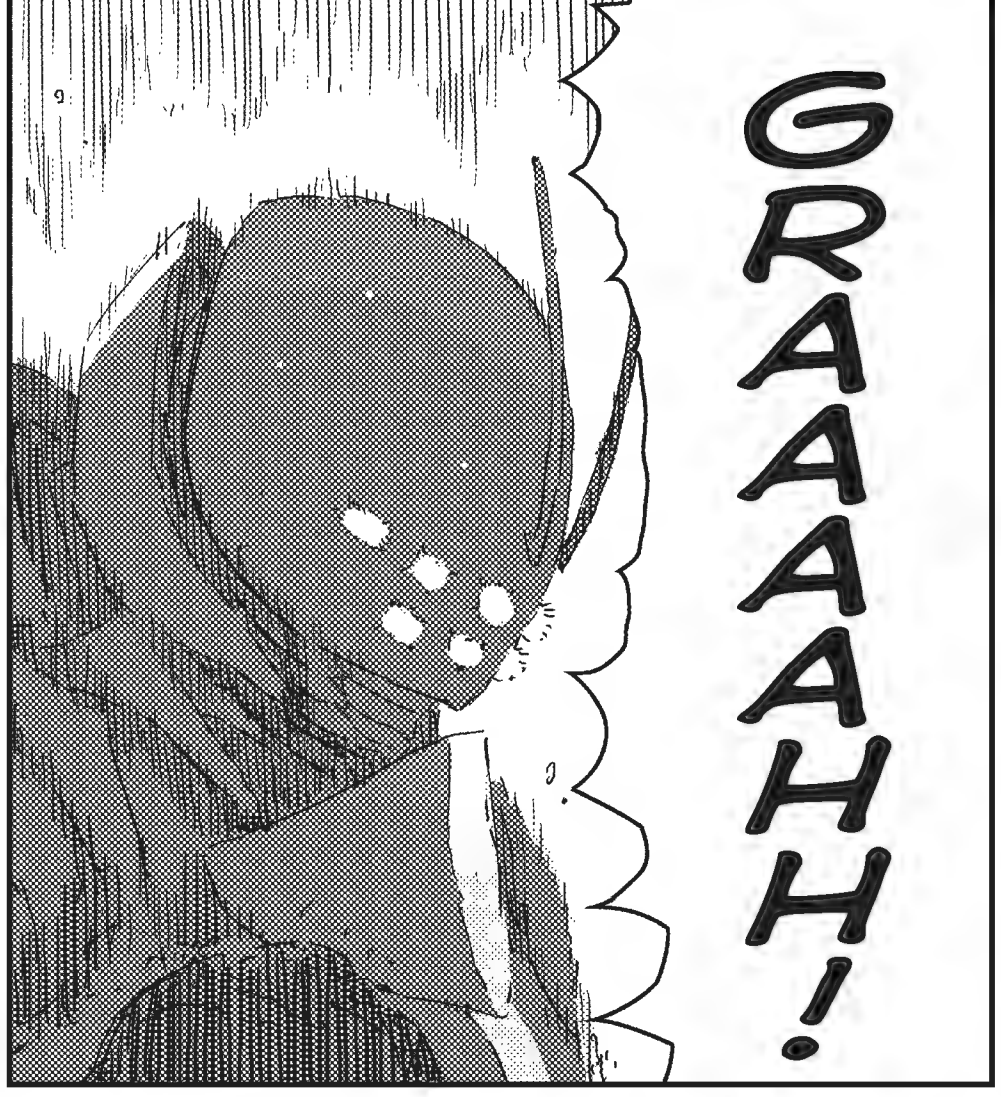

SLAMM


HSSSHHH
KSCRK


...

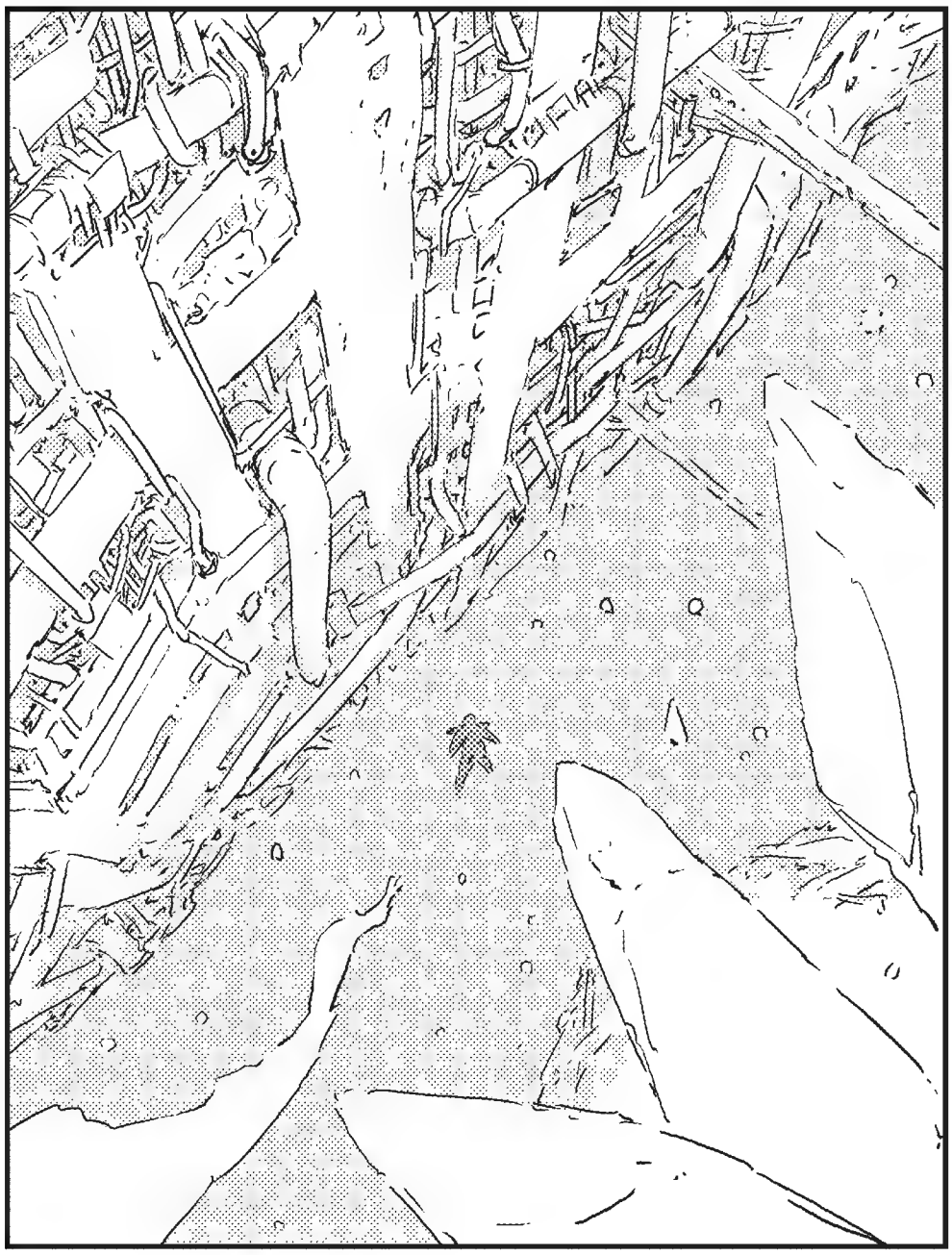


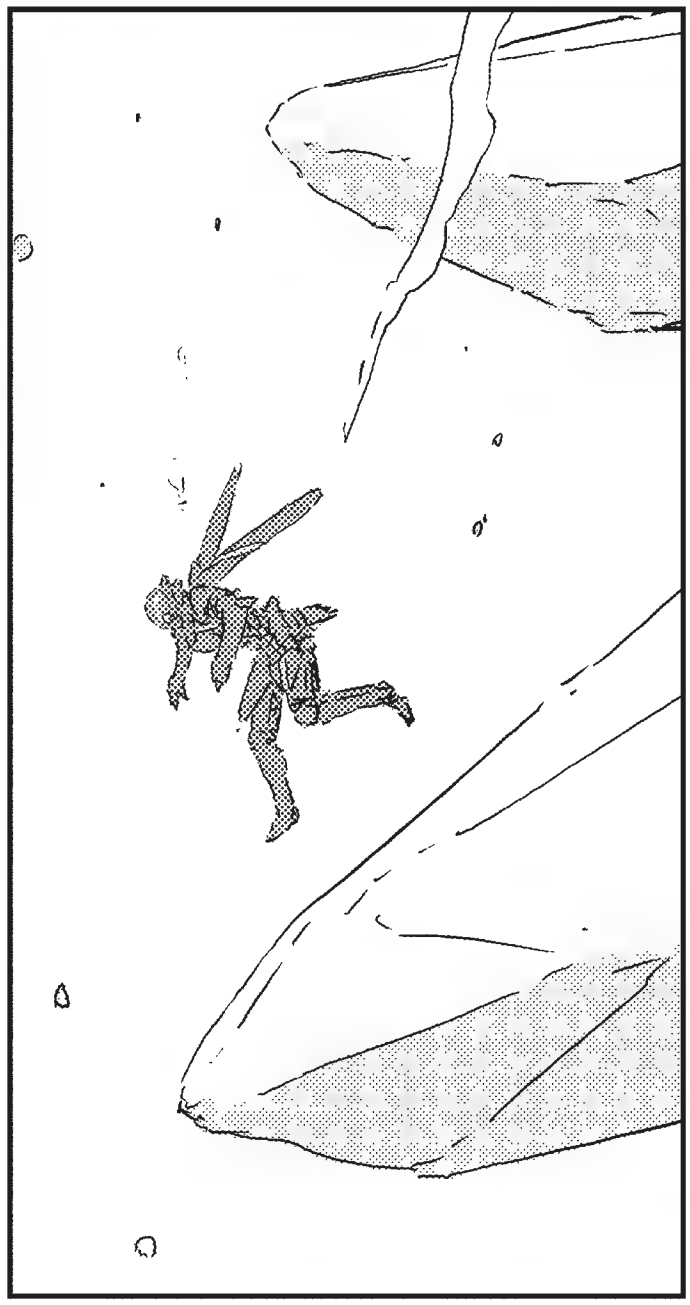

ACTIVITY CUT OFF IN:
8.0 SECONDS


GRAAAAH!


GWOOM
GWOOM
GWOOM


BA
GUNG
GUNG
GUNG





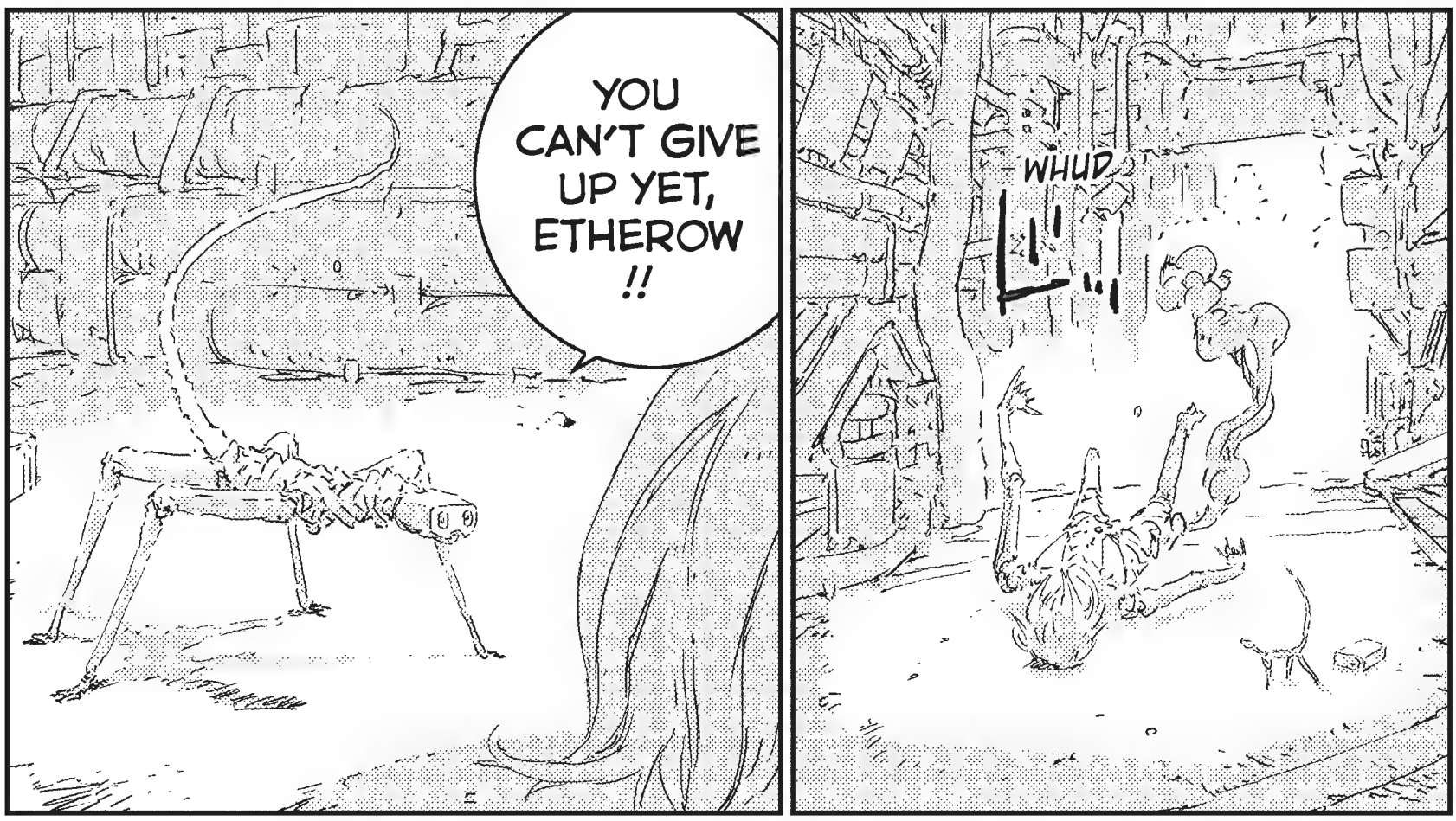
HE SHOULD BARELY BE ABLE TO MOVE ANYMORE.

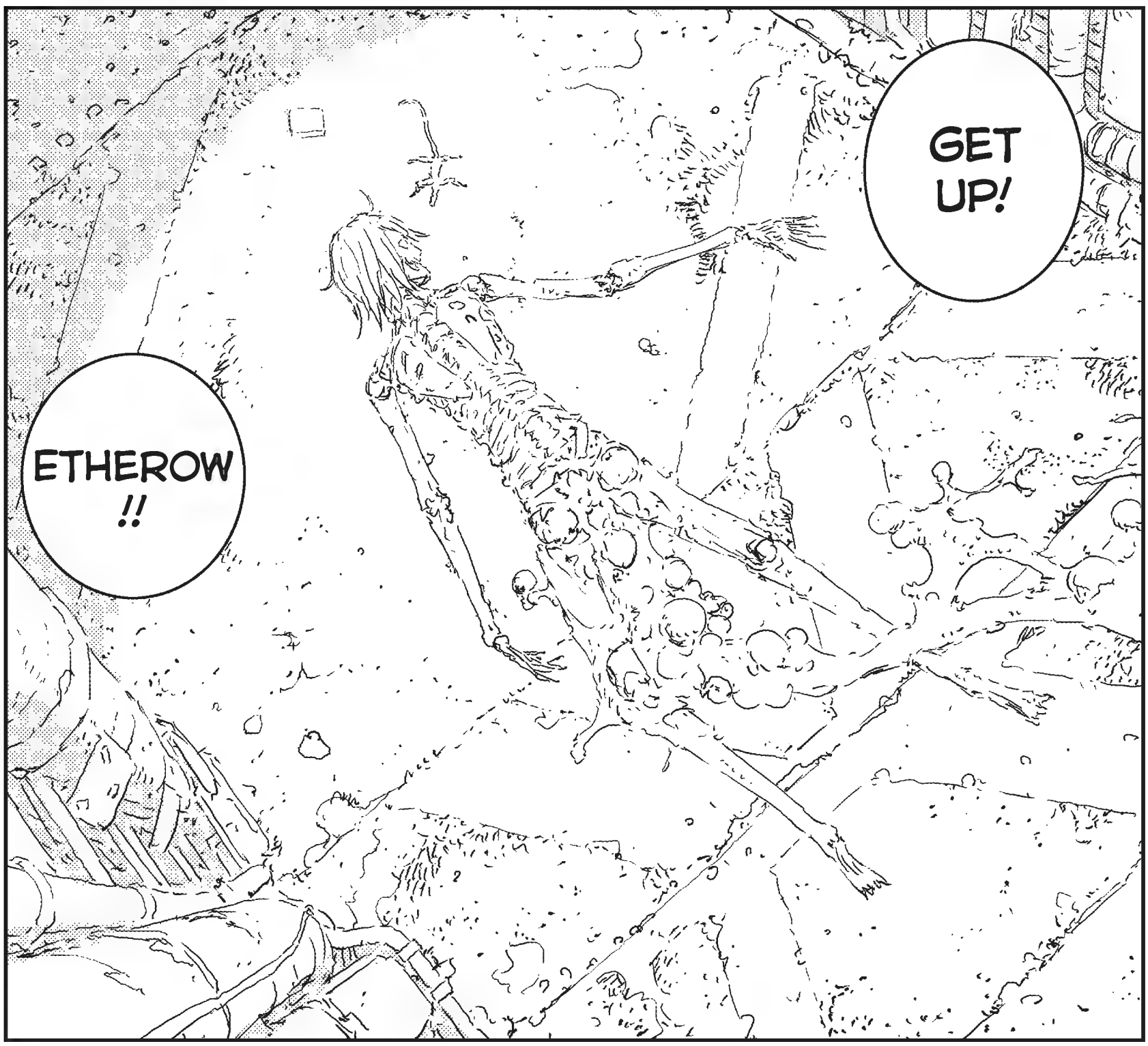
FIND HIM!

ズ"
ズ"
ズ"
KZSS
CHZZ

YOU CAN DO IT!

ズ"
ル
DRAG
ズ"
ル
DRAG



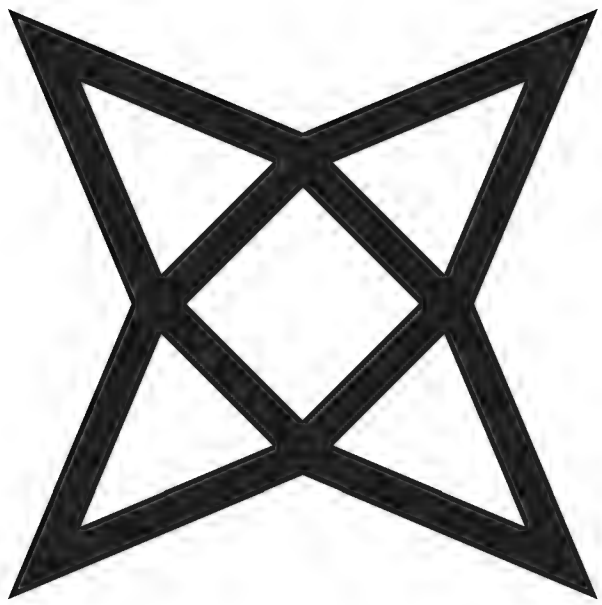


CHAPTER 01 END

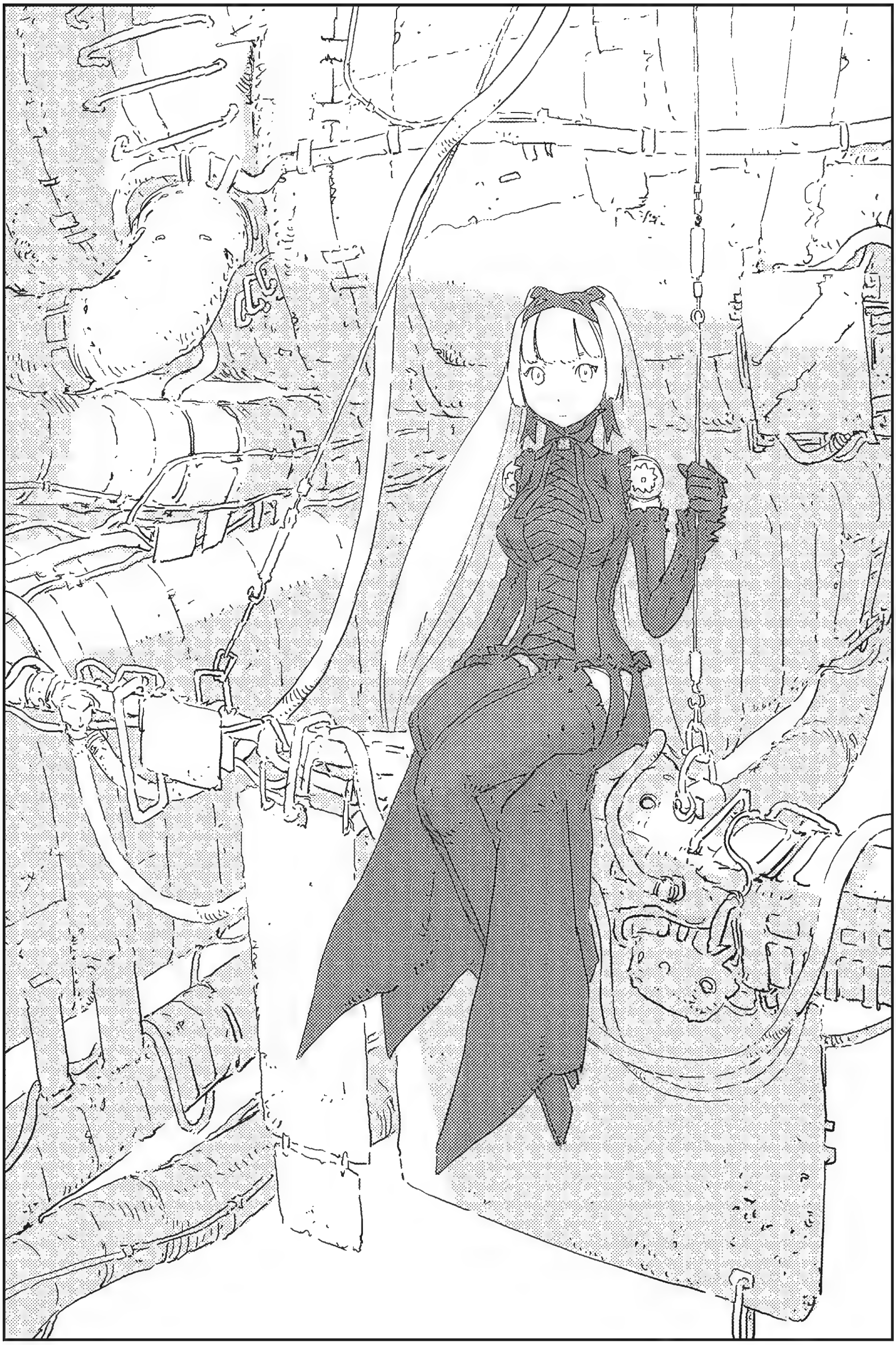
A P O

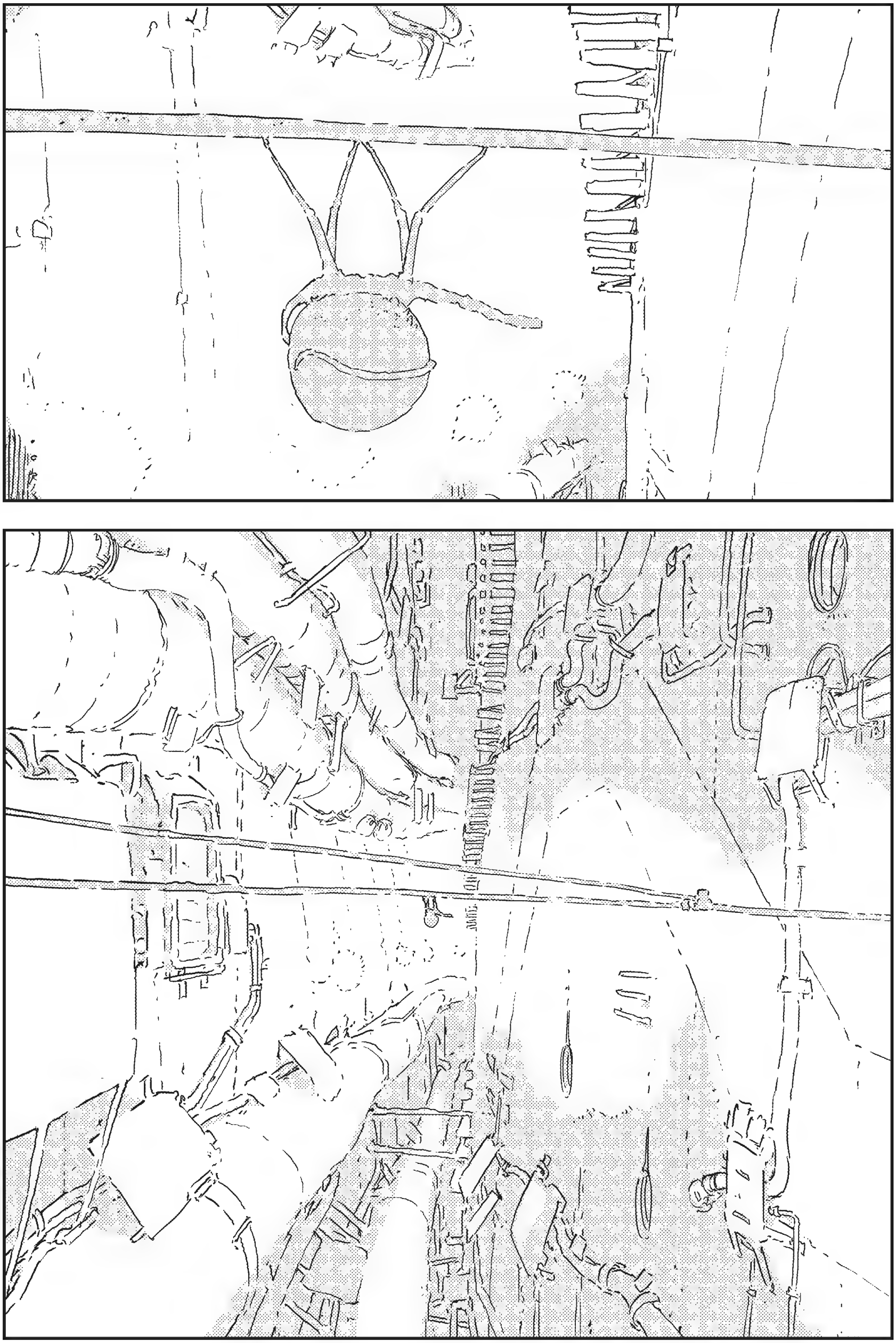
S I M

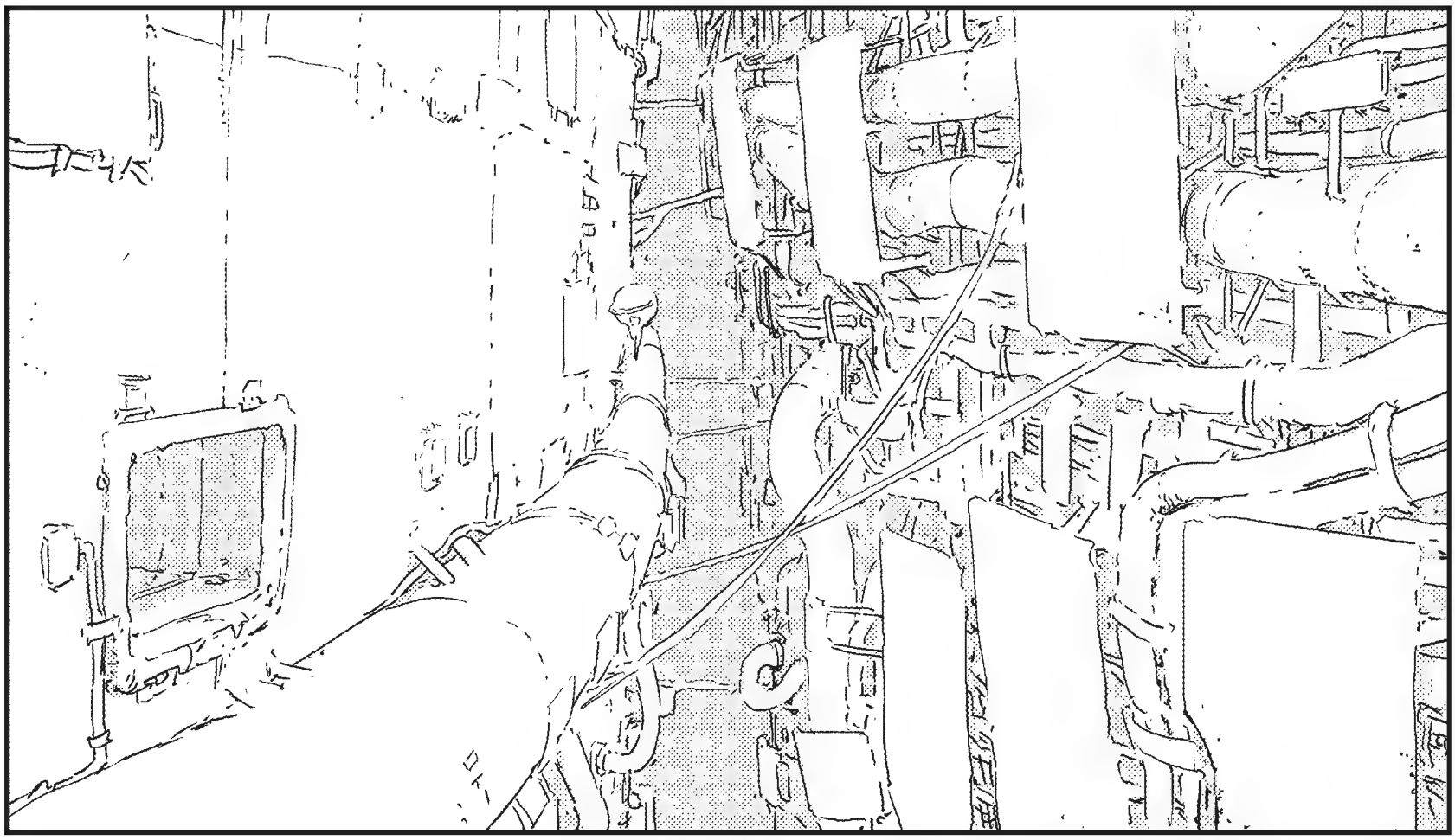
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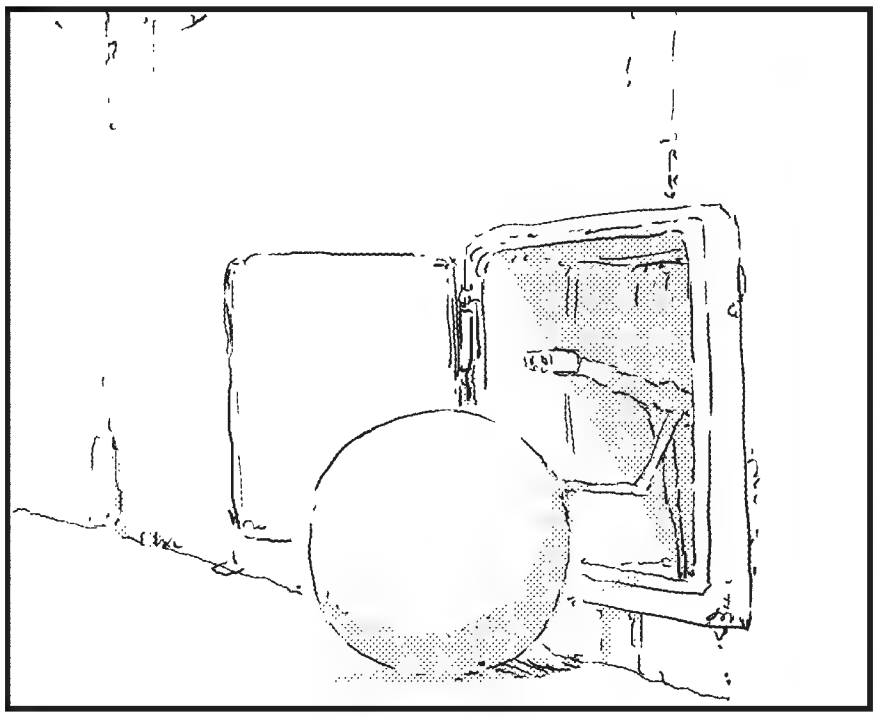


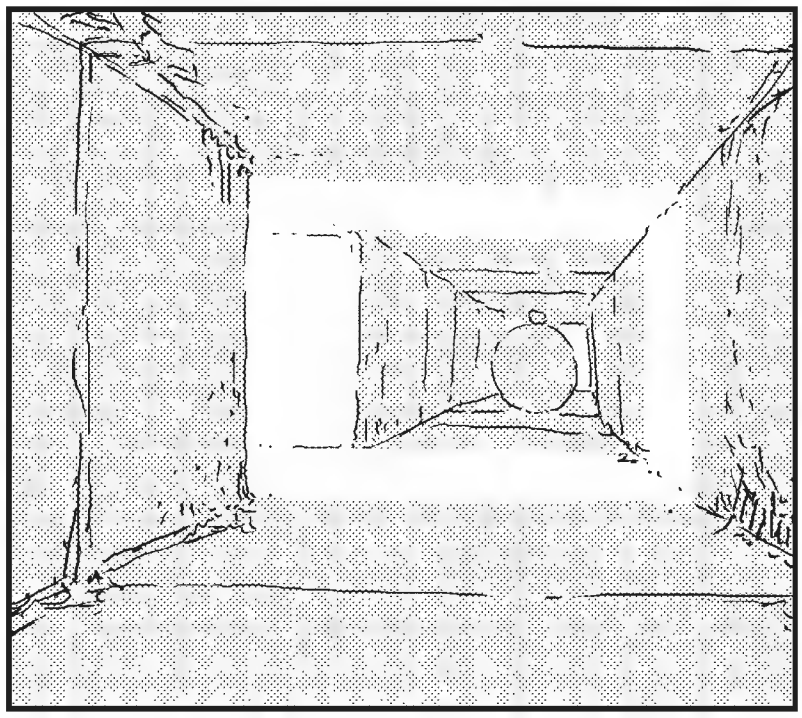
CHAPTER 02

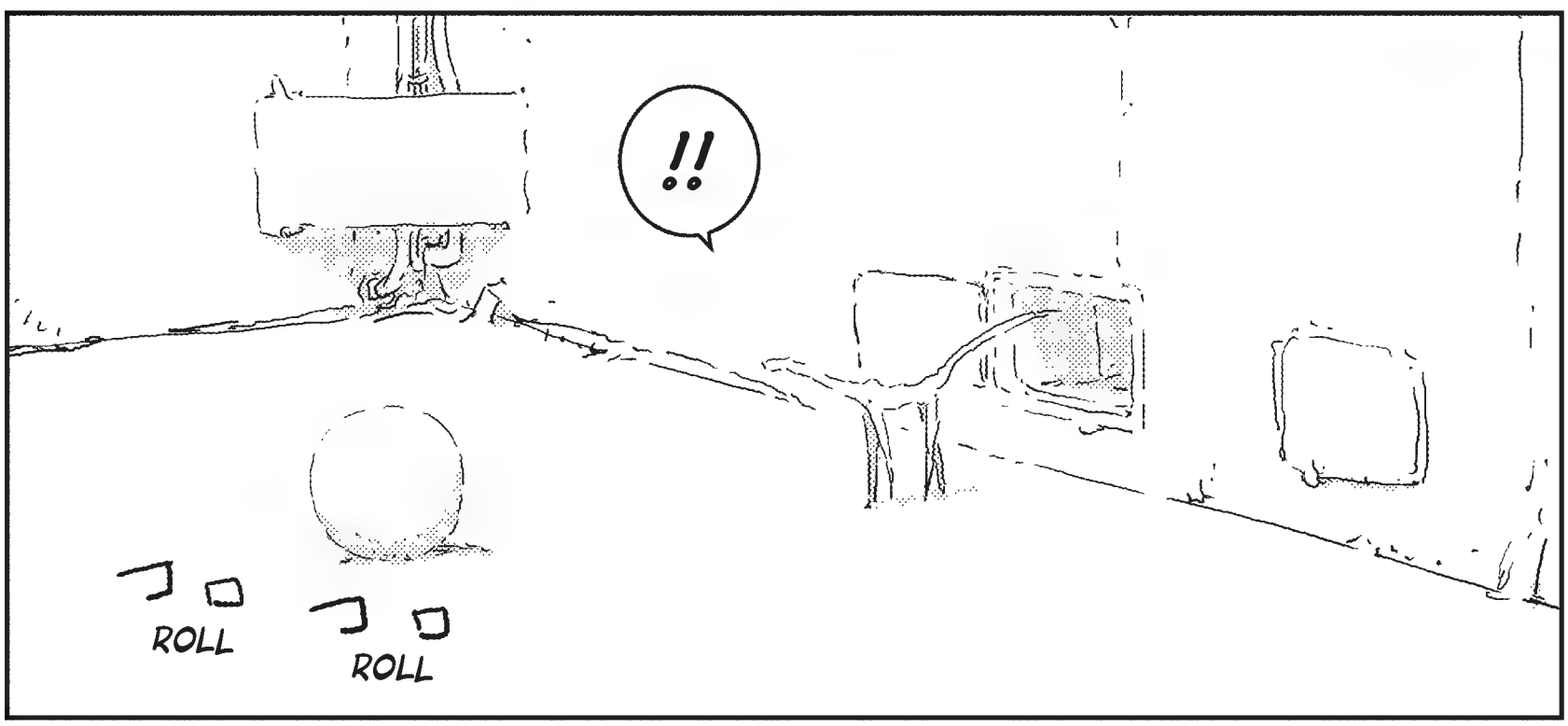


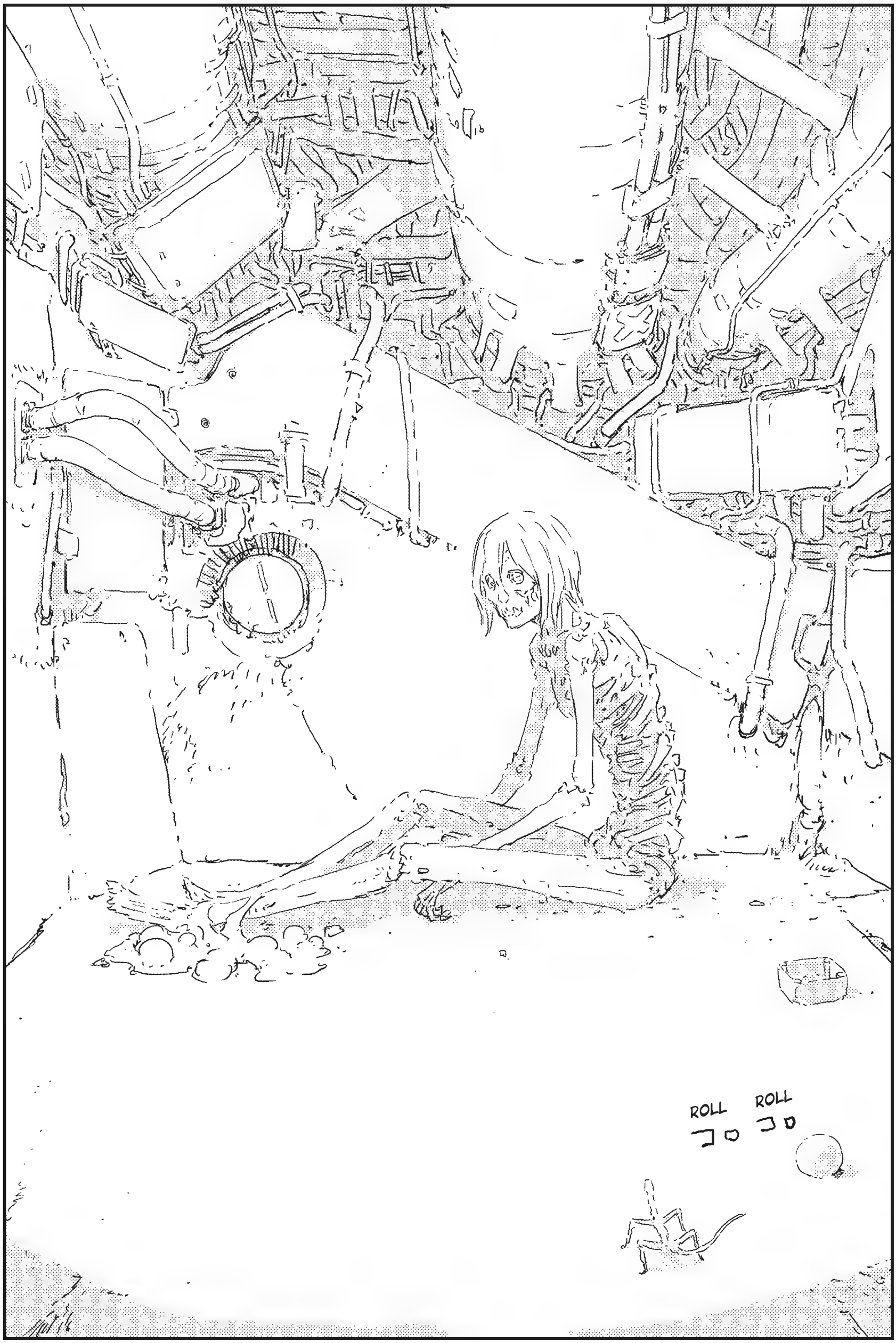









!!
ROLL
ROLL


ROLL
ROLL

ETHEROW! THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE WOKEN UP!

...

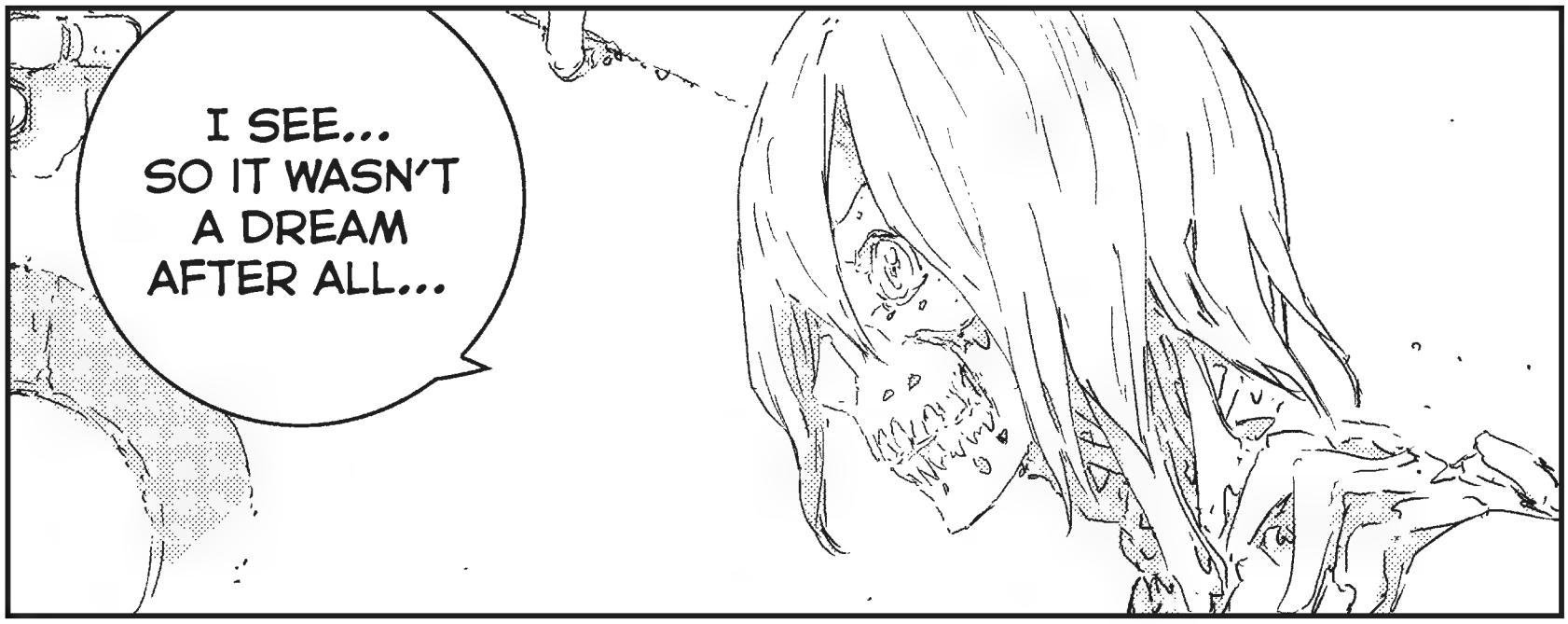
NO, AS MORE THAN AN EQUAL! IF THAT ATTACK HAD HIT HIM IN THE HEAD, HE'D BE DEAD NOW.

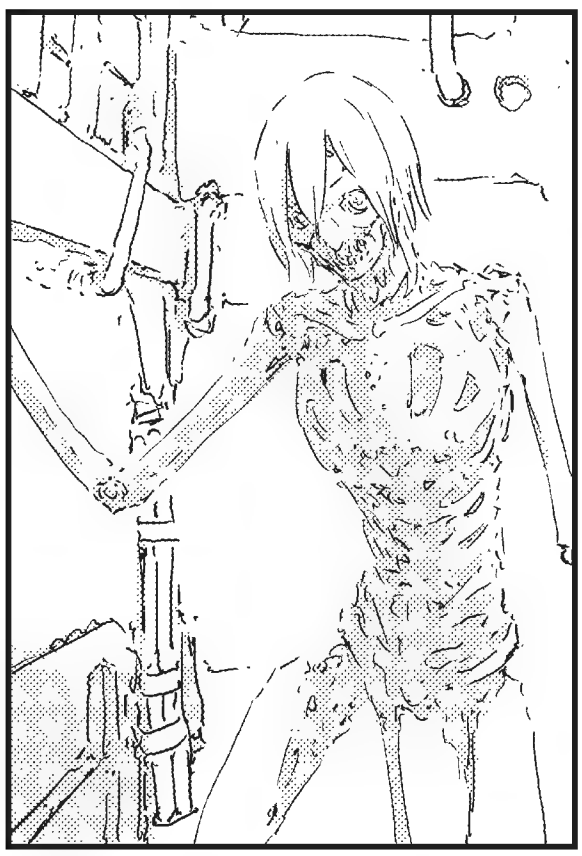
THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! YOU'VE ONLY JUST BECOME A REGULAR FRAME, BUT YOU TRADED BLOWS WITH YIYU AS AN EQUAL!

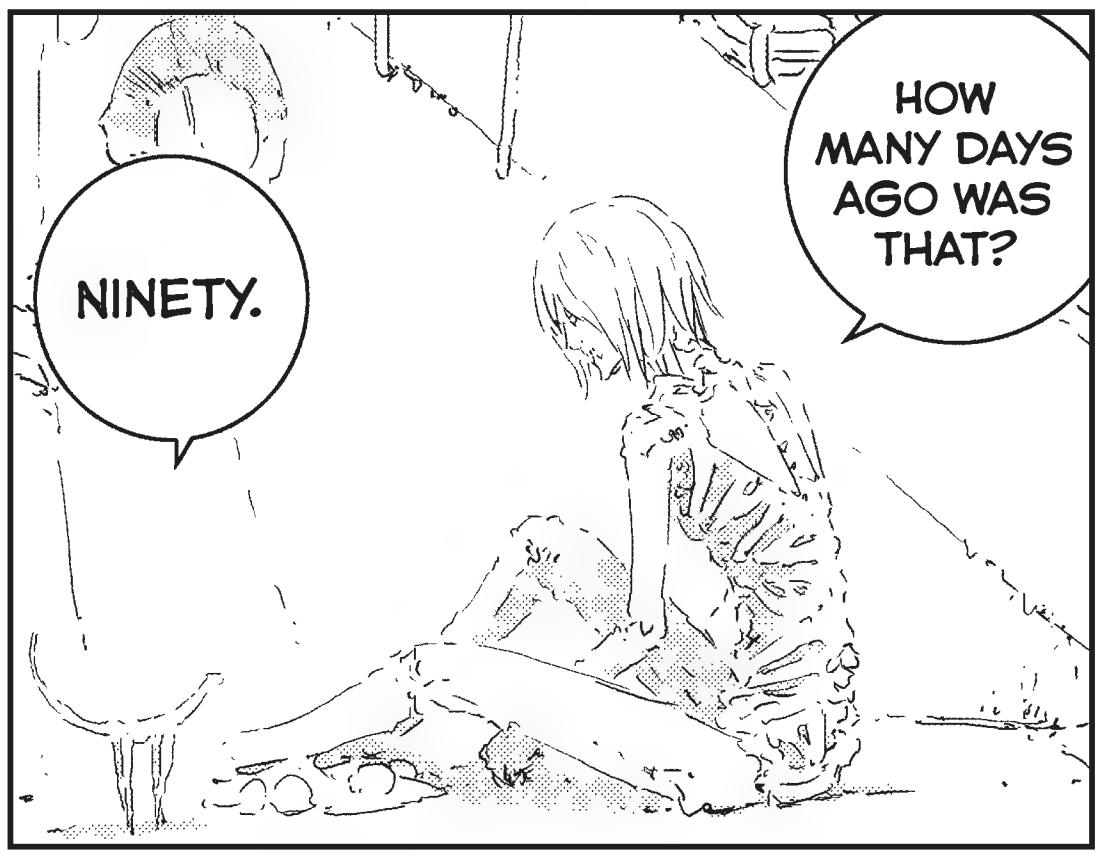
I AM TRULY SORRY. I AM WELL AWARE THAT MERELY APOLOGIZING WILL NOT RECTIFY THE MATTER, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HEAR.

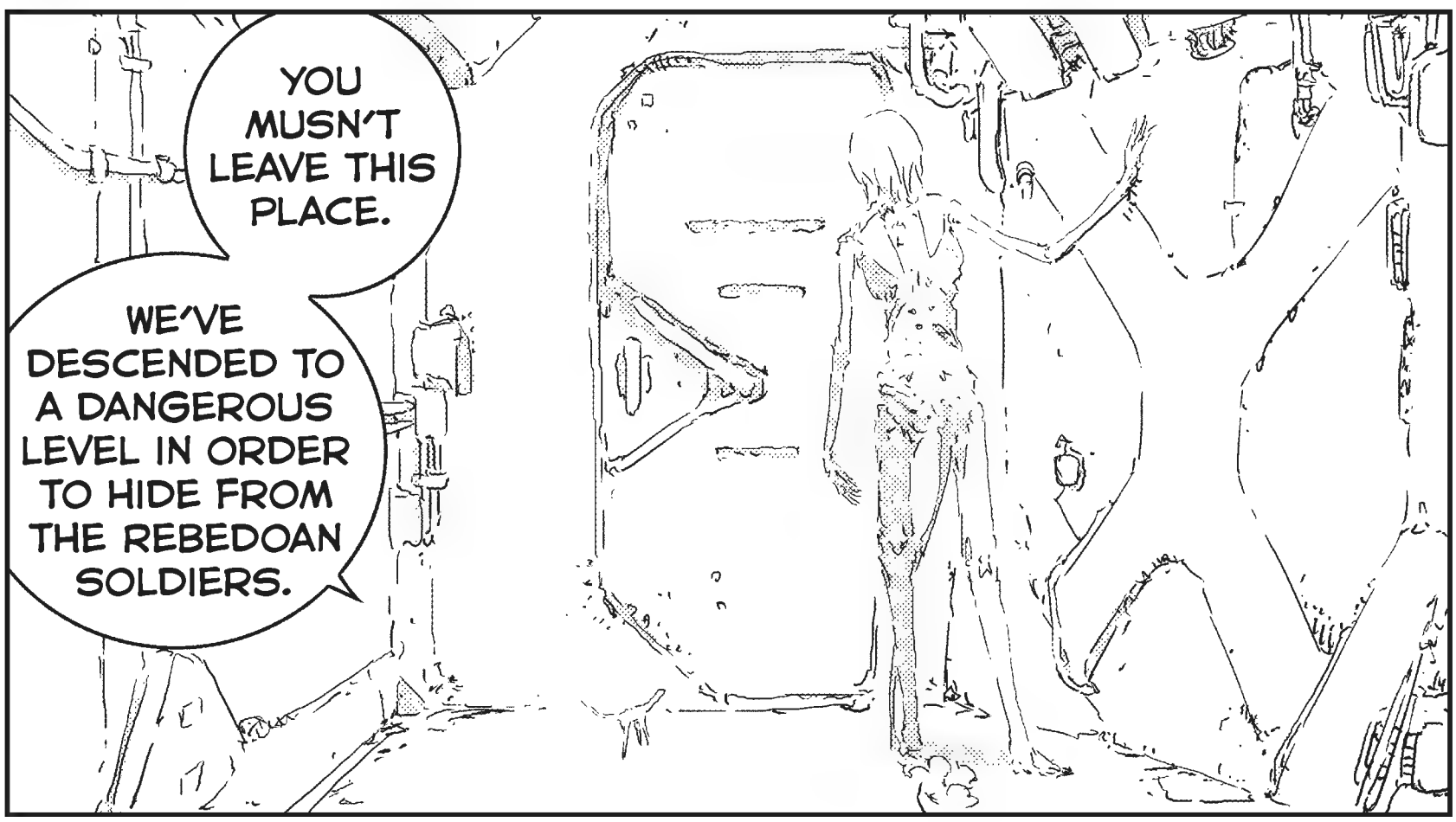
FOR ME TO GET YOU ALL TANGLED UP IN THIS, AND THEN FOR THINGS TO TURN OUT THE WAY THEY DID...

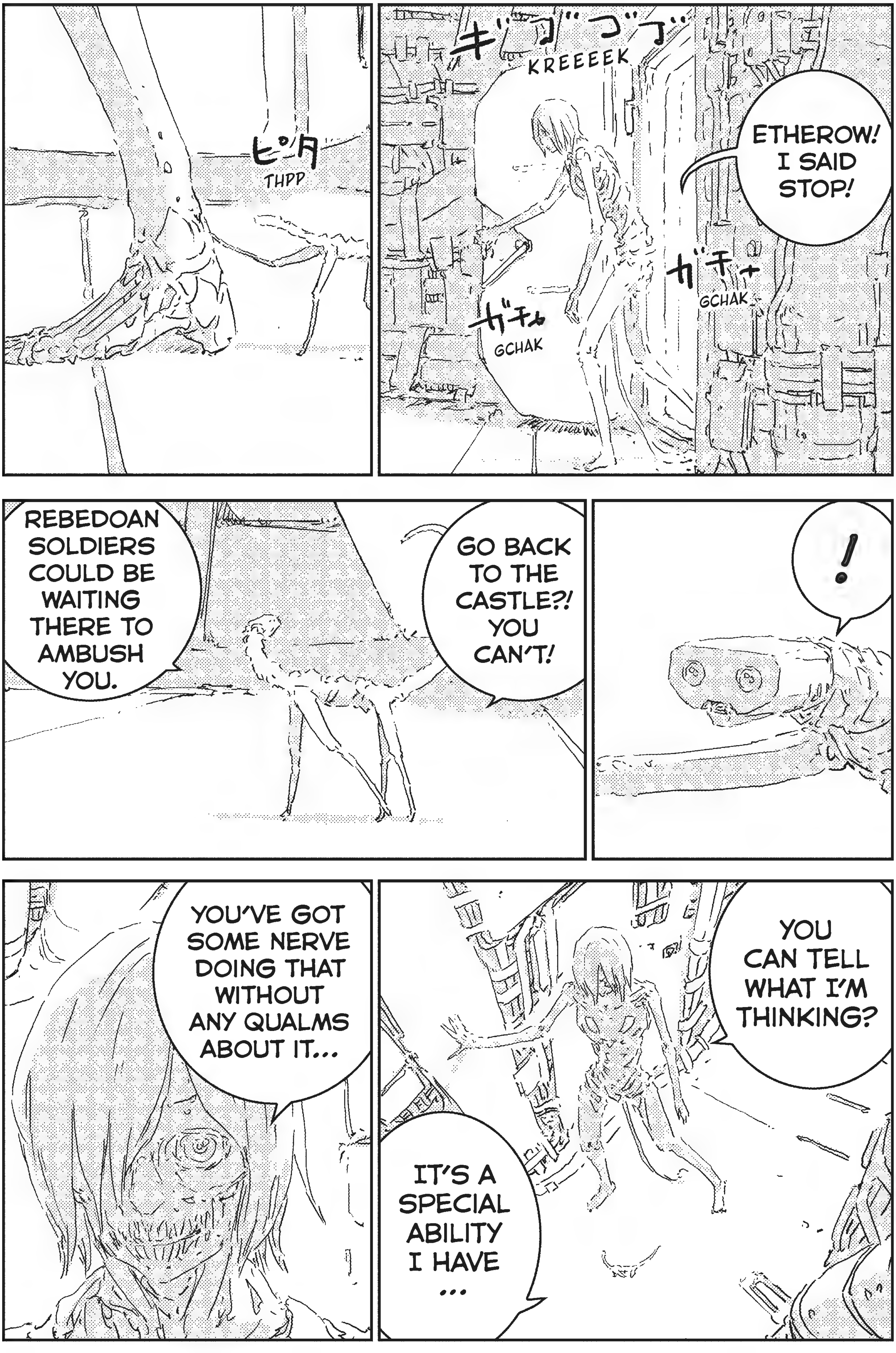
ONCE AGAIN, I AM TITANIA.


I SEE...
SO IT WASN'T
A DREAM
AFTER ALL...




NINETY.
HOW
MANY DAYS
AGO WAS
THAT?


YOU
MUSN'T
LEAVE THIS
PLACE.
WE'VE
DESCENDED TO
A DANGEROUS
LEVEL IN ORDER
TO HIDE FROM
THE REBEDOAN
SOLDIERS.


KREEEEK
ETHEROW! I SAID STOP!
ガチャ
GCHAK
ガチャ
GCHAK
ピタ
THPP
!
GO BACK TO THE CASTLE?! YOU CAN'T!
REBEDOAN SOLDIERS COULD BE WAITING THERE TO AMBUSH YOU.
YOU CAN TELL WHAT I'M THINKING?
IT'S A SPECIAL ABILITY I HAVE …
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE DOING THAT WITHOUT ANY QUALMS ABOUT IT…

BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO BACK THERE, AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL YOUR BODY IS HEALED.

I'M SORRY.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BE WHOLE AGAIN?!

DAMN IT!!

GRAK

DON'T TOUCH ME!

THAT FALL WRECKED YOUR SKELETAL STRUCTURE AND YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PLACENTA OR HAIGHS PARTICLES TO REPAIR IT.

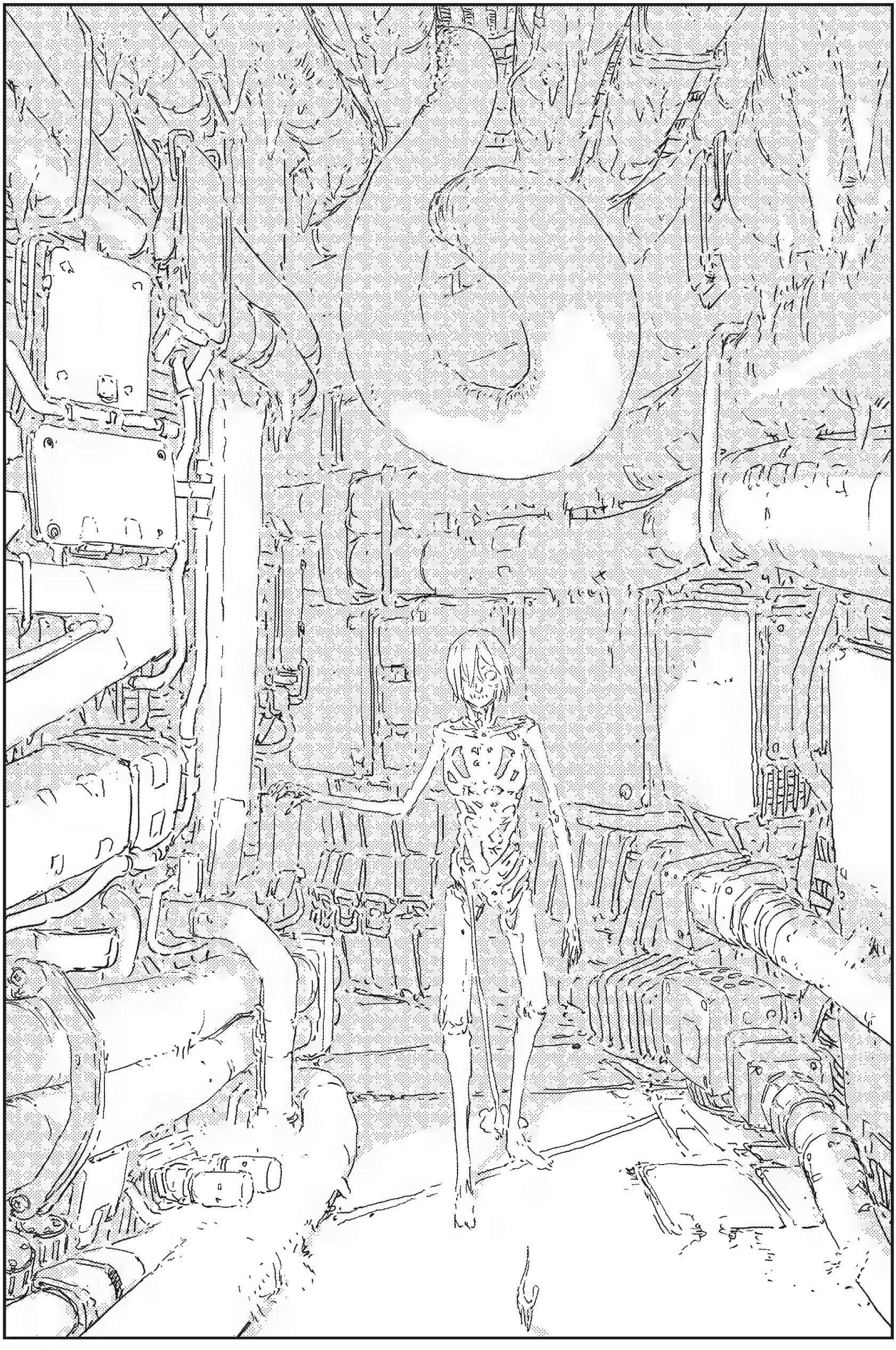
CALM DOWN, ETHEROW.

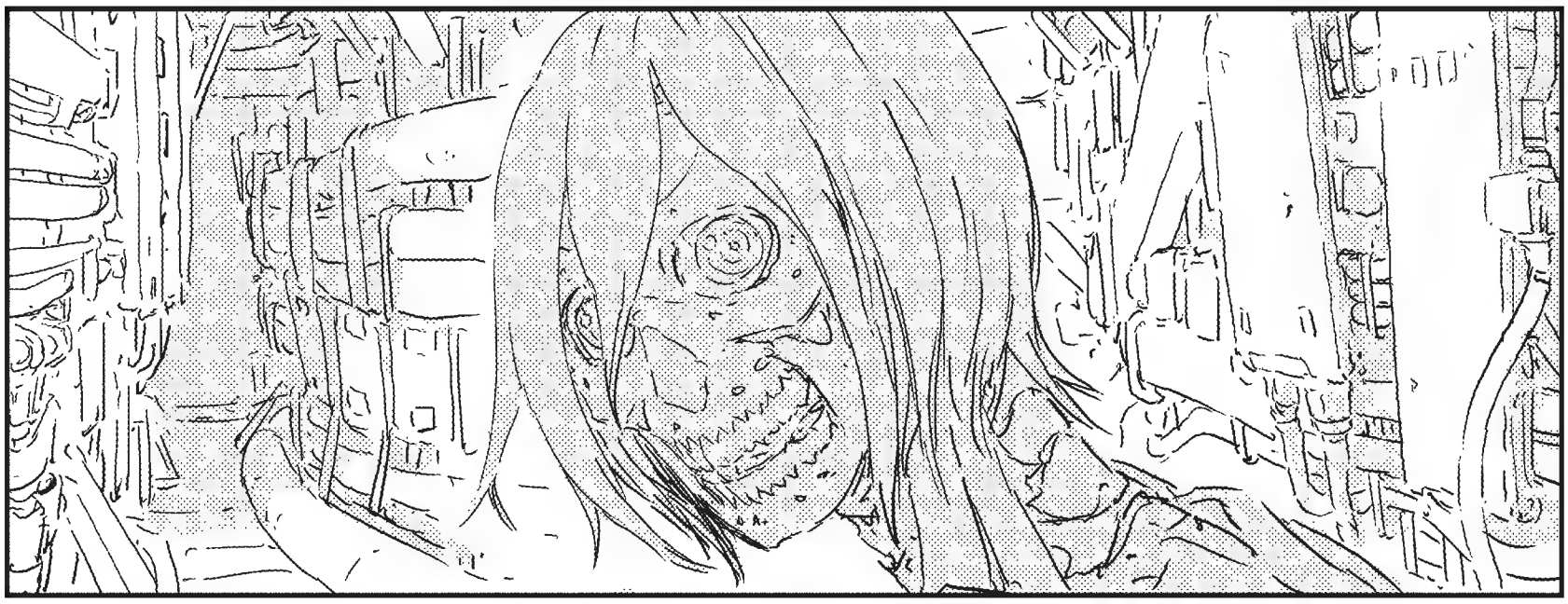
YOUR BODY WILL DEFINITELY HEAL, SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY. IT WILL JUST TAKE PLENTY OF NOURISHMENT AND TIME.

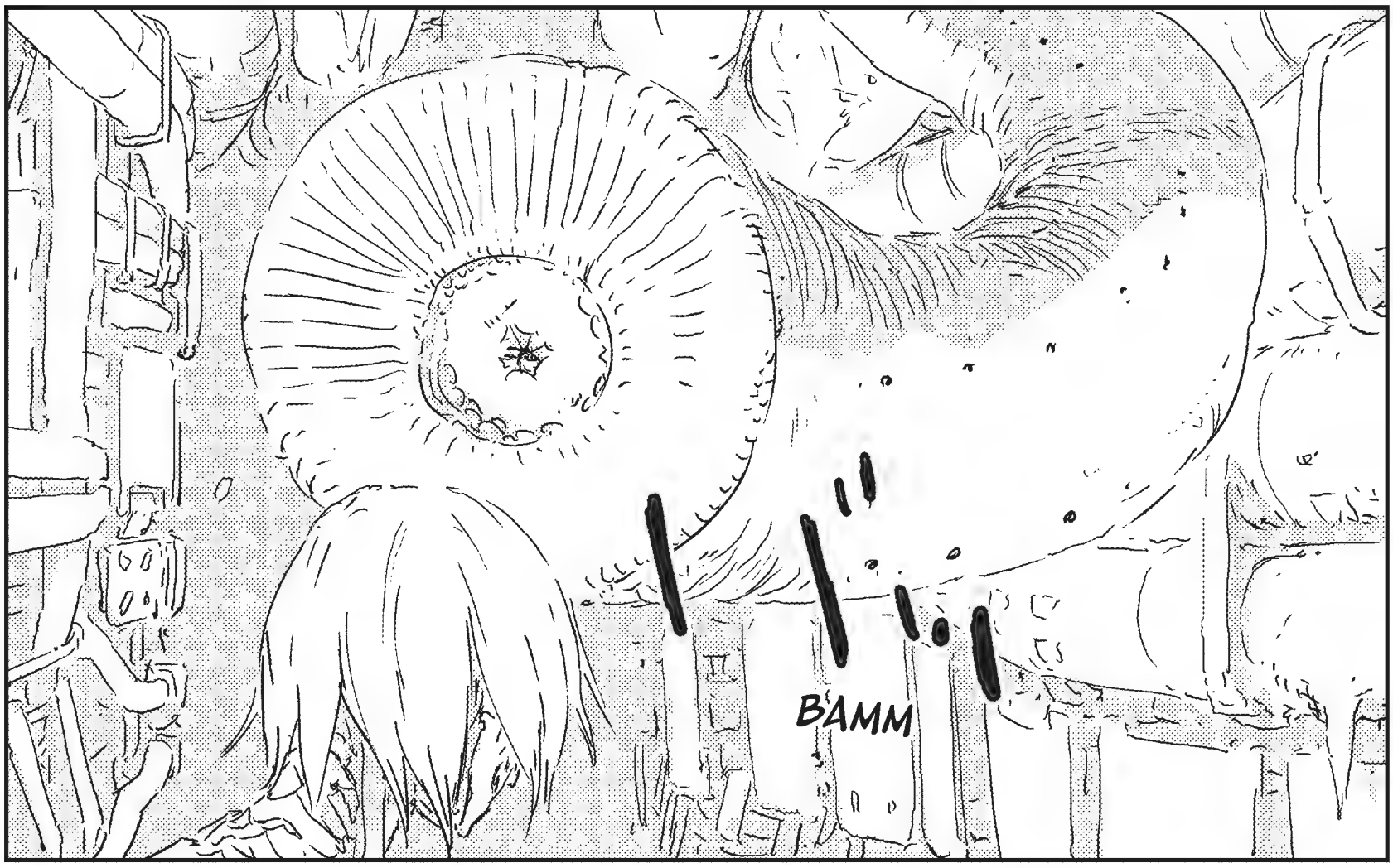
I WON'T READ YOUR MIND WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION ANYMORE.

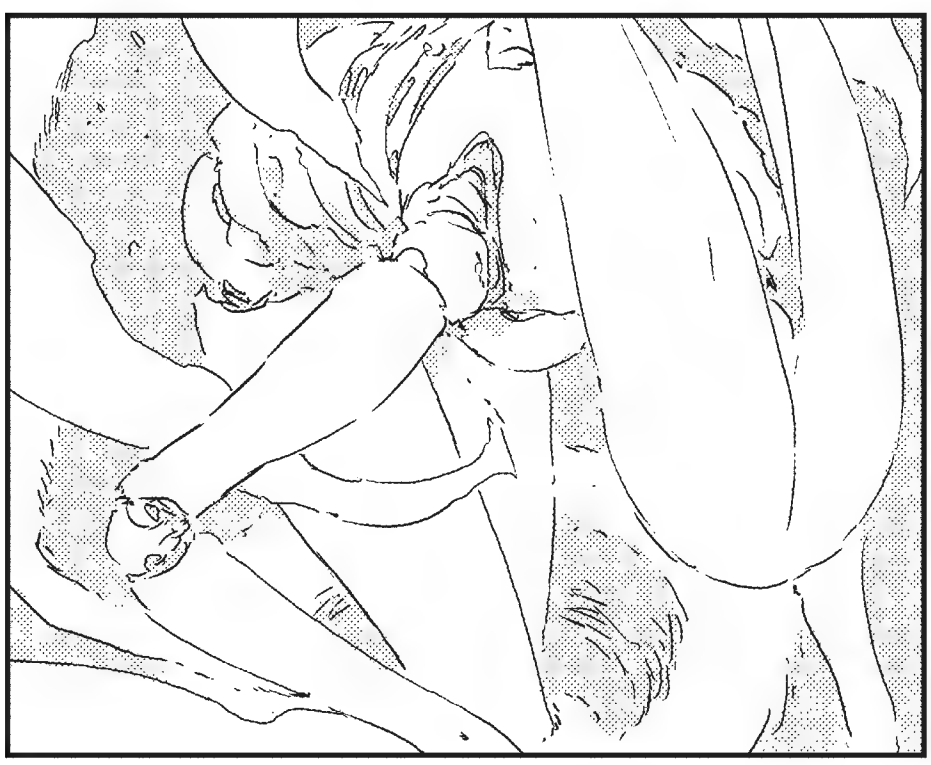
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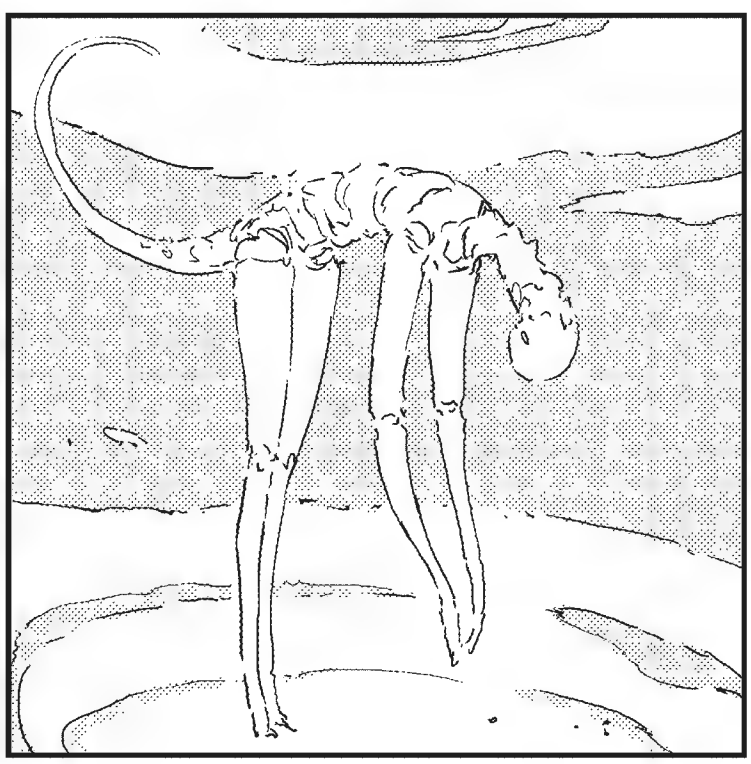
I'LL GO LOOK FOR SOME FOOD. YOU WAIT INSIDE.

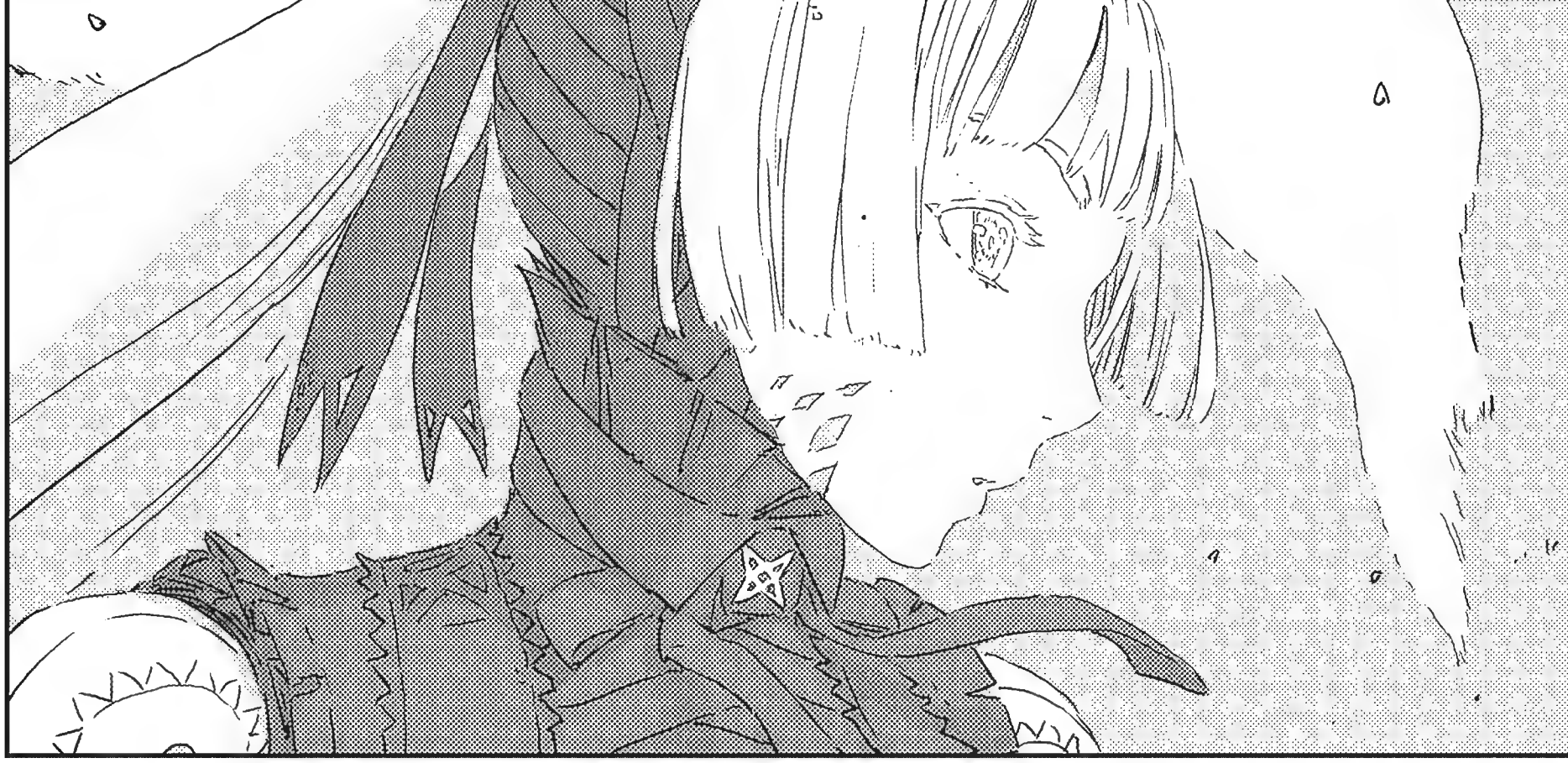


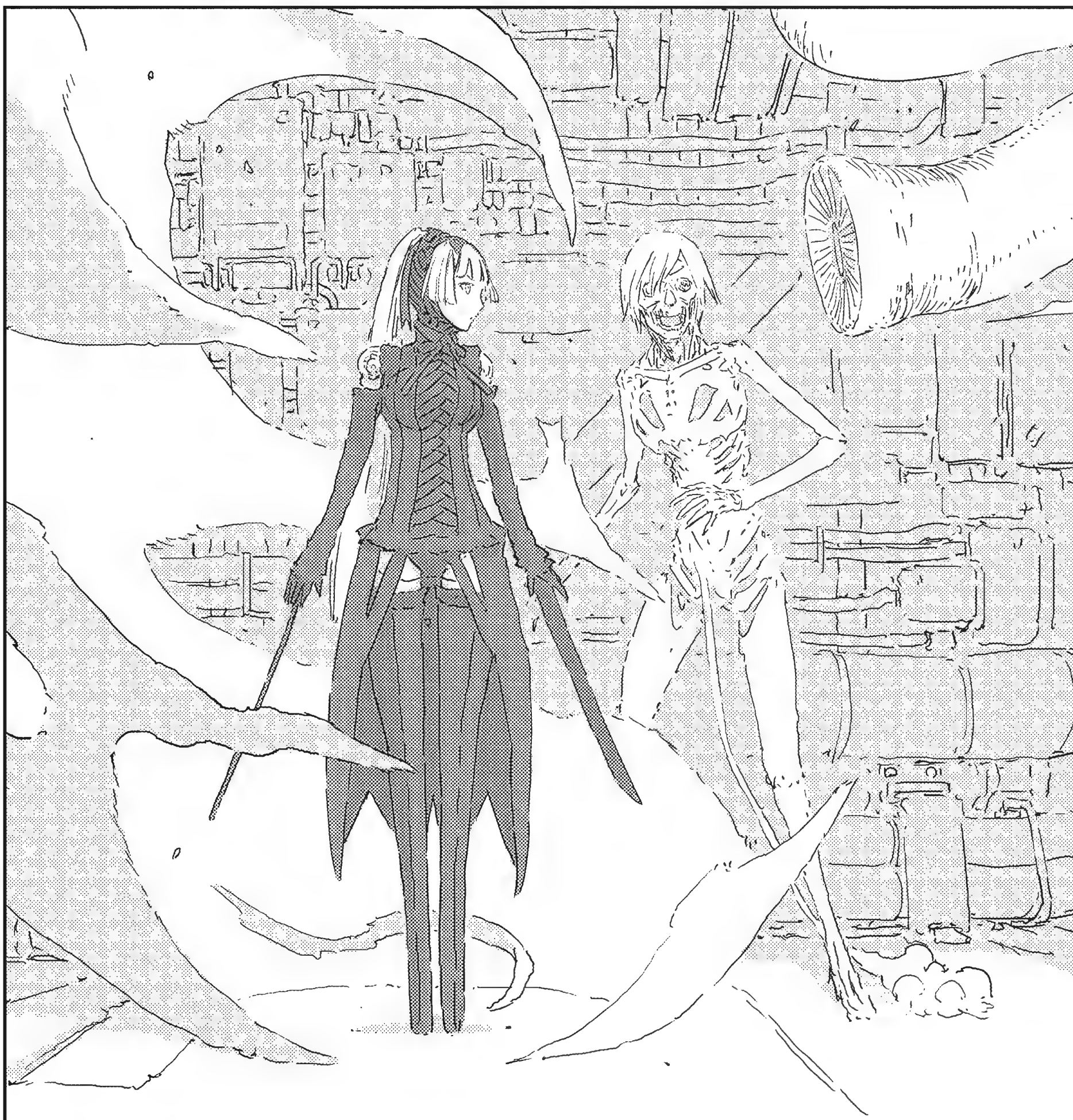



BAMM



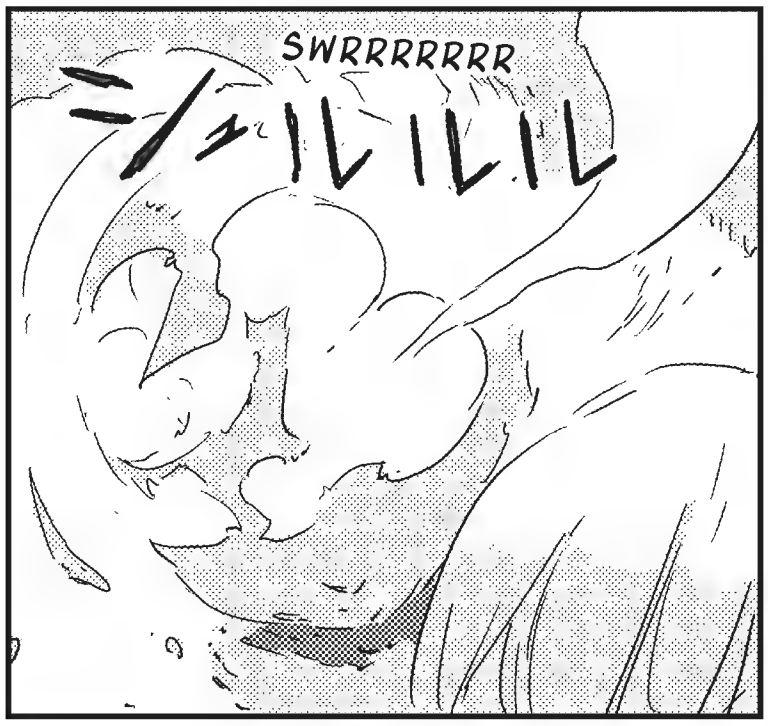




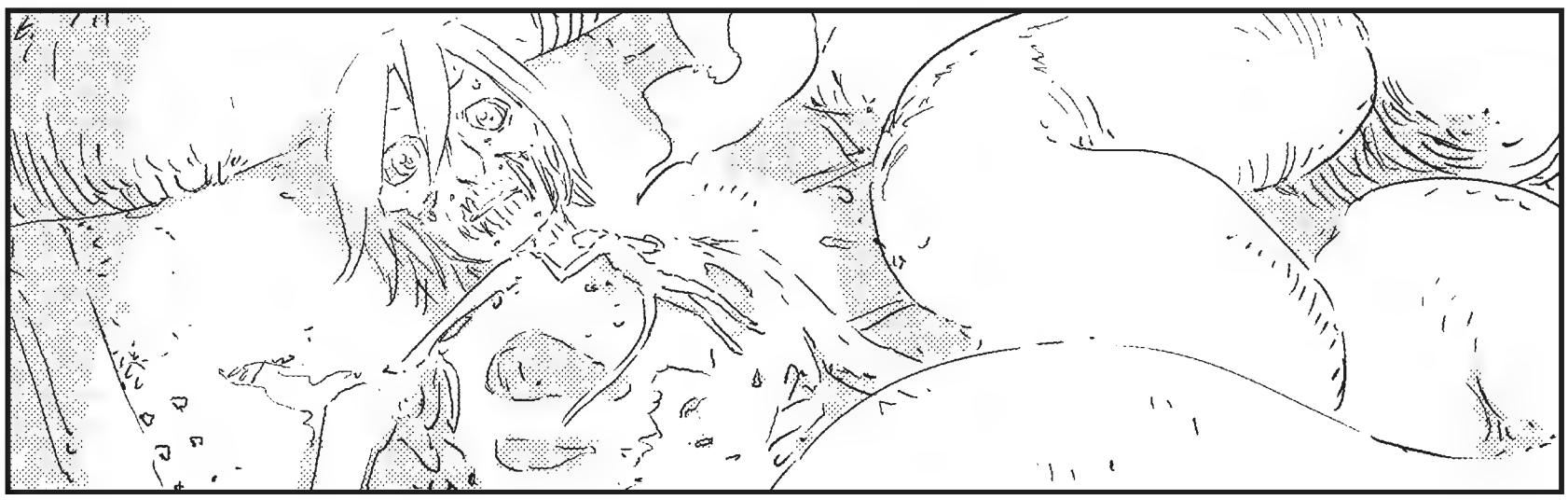


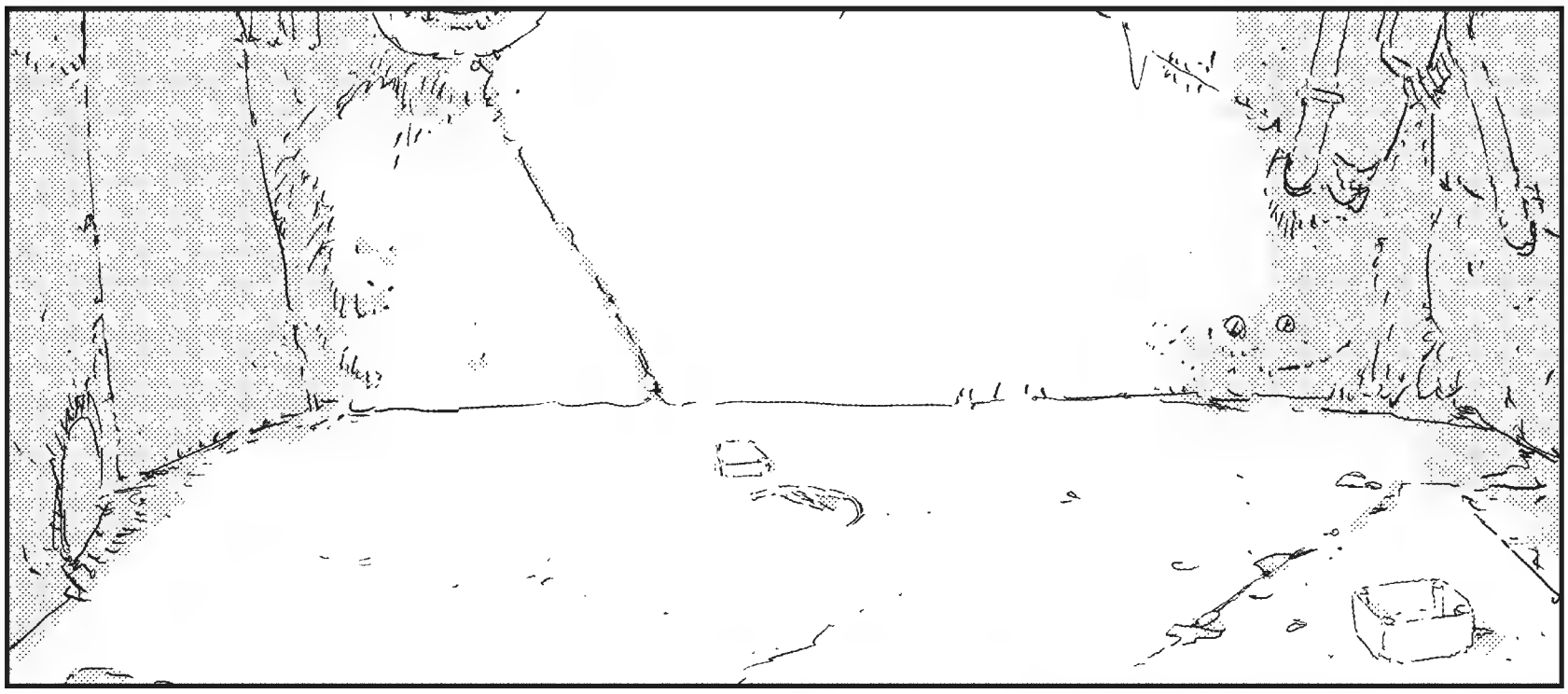

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BASHUMMP
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SWRRRRRRR

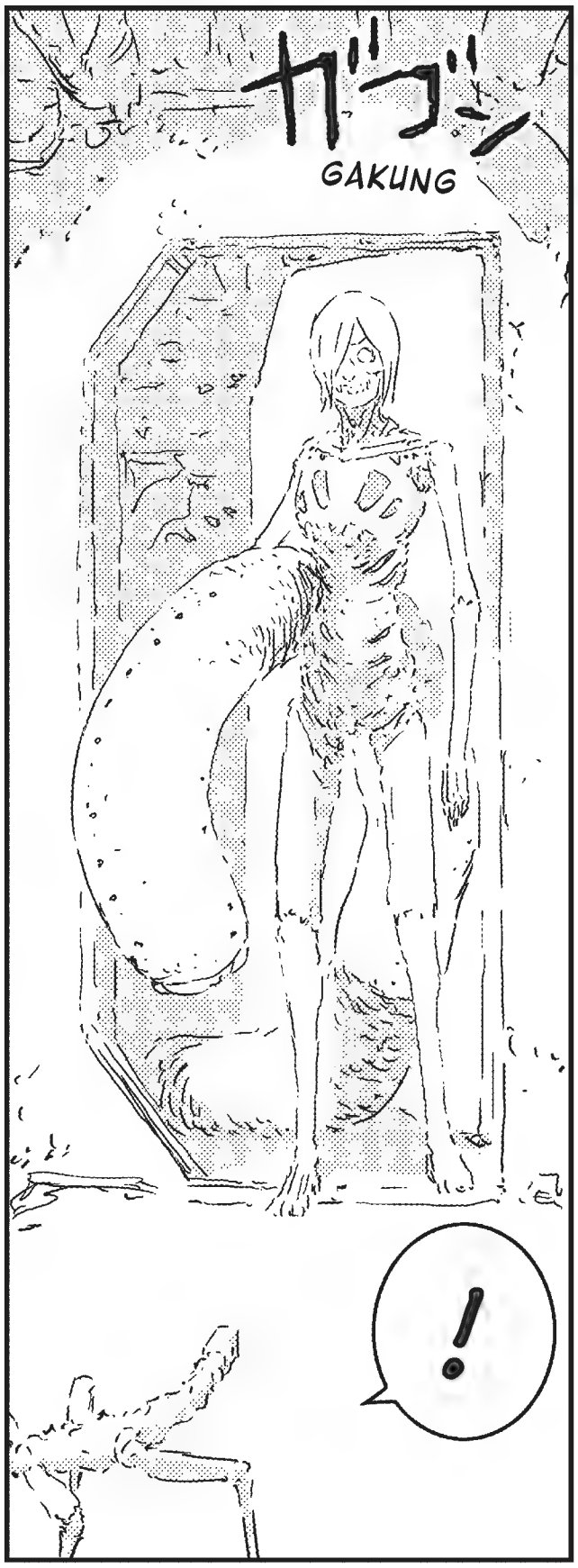


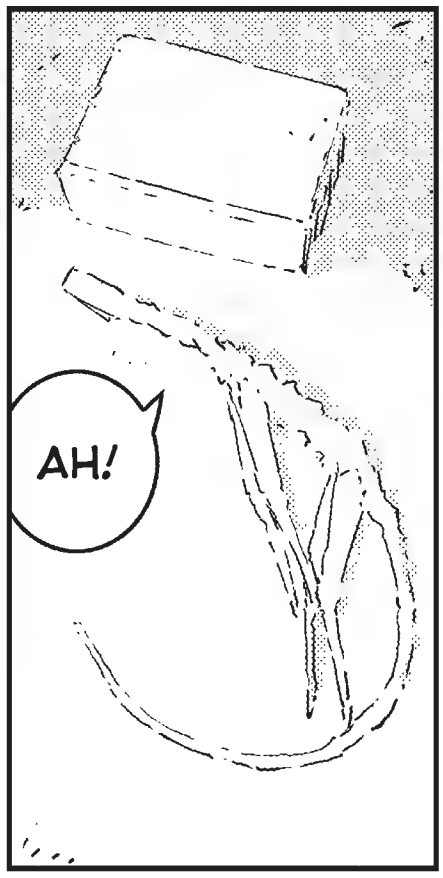




I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D LEFT BY YOURSELF WHILE I WAS PASSED OUT...

AAH... YOU SCARED ME.





AFTER I EAT THIS AND HEAL MY BODY.

ドヘ"…
WHUMP

!

ETHEROW ?! WHERE ARE YOU ?!

ボオオオ WHOOOO

VZZT

LEAVE THIS TO ME!

ZWUMP

ARE YOU A REGULAR FRAME, TOO?

HOW IS IT THAT YOU CAN TURN INTO A FRAME-LIKE FORM AND THEN RIGHT BACK AGAIN LIKE THAT?

PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN IT CALL IT THE "CORE WORLD."

WELL... THEIR DOCTRINES ARE MOSTLY NONSENSE, BUT THE CORE WORLD DOES EXIST.

HUH ...?

I CAME FROM THE CENTRAL CONTROL LEVEL.

NO. I'M A FOLDING-TYPE AUTOMATON. I CAN'T MAINTAIN HUMANOID FORM FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME DUE TO MY TECHNOLOGY LEAKAGE PREVENTION FUNCTION.

THE EMPEROR AIMS TO TAKE OVER THE CENTRAL CONTROL LEVEL AND CONQUER THIS PLANET.

TO PUT A STOP TO THE REBEDOAN EMPEROR'S AMBITIONS!

WHAT MADE YOU TRAVEL SO FAR TO GET HERE?

THE CORE WORLD ...

THE EMPEROR HAS TRIED TO INVADE THE CENTRAL CONTROL LEVEL FOR AGES,

THE MACHINERY, CONTROL SYSTEMS, AND EVERYTHING CRUCIAL TO MAINTAINING THIS PLANET.

WHAT'S IN THE CENTRAL CONTROL LEVEL? ...

THERE IS NO ONE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE SHELL WITH THE AUTHORITY TO OPEN THAT DOOR.

NOR CAN I.

THERE IS AN ENTRANCE, BUT THE EMPEROR WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO OPEN IT.

BUT IT'S COVERED BY A MEGA-STRUCTURAL SHELL.

SURFACE

RUINS LEVEL

MEGASTRUCTURAL SHELL

CENTRAL CONTROL LEVEL

AMBS.*

THERE IS JUST ONE WAY TO BREAK THROUGH IT.

THE MEGA-STRUCTURE IS SUPPOSED TO BE UN-BREAKABLE, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO IT.

SO THEN, HOW DOES THE EMPEROR INTEND TO INVADE?

*Anti-Megastructure Bullets

IT'S A SPECIAL ABILITY THAT YOU HAVE.

AND IN ORDER TO FIRE THEM, YOU NEED AN EBTG MECHANISM.

SO I ABSOLUTELY NEED YOUR AID.

WE MUST NEVER ALLOW THESE BULLETS TO FALL INTO THE EMPIRE'S HANDS, AND AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ARE THE KEY TO TOPPLING THE EMPIRE.

ETHEROW... PLEASE, HELP ME.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

KOFF

BLAARGH

YEAH... FACE-GNAWER MEAT IS MY FAVORITE FOOD. ARE REGULAR FRAMES UNABLE TO EAT MEAT?

NO. IN FACT, YOU CAN DIGEST ALMOST ANYTHING.

IT'S JUST STILL TOO SOON FOR SOLID FOODS.

SHAA

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

I'VE PROCESSED IT SO IT WILL BE EASY FOR YOU TO DIGEST.

WHAT IS THIS?

PLIP

HERE, DRINK THIS.

...

IF YOU DON'T DRINK IT, YOU WON'T GET BETTER.

IT ISN'T... AND THESE PAST NINETY DAYS, I'VE BEEN PROCESS-ING PIPE FRUIT THE SAME WAY AND HAVING YOU DRINK IT.

GOODNESS! DON'T THINK IT'S MY BODILY WASTE!

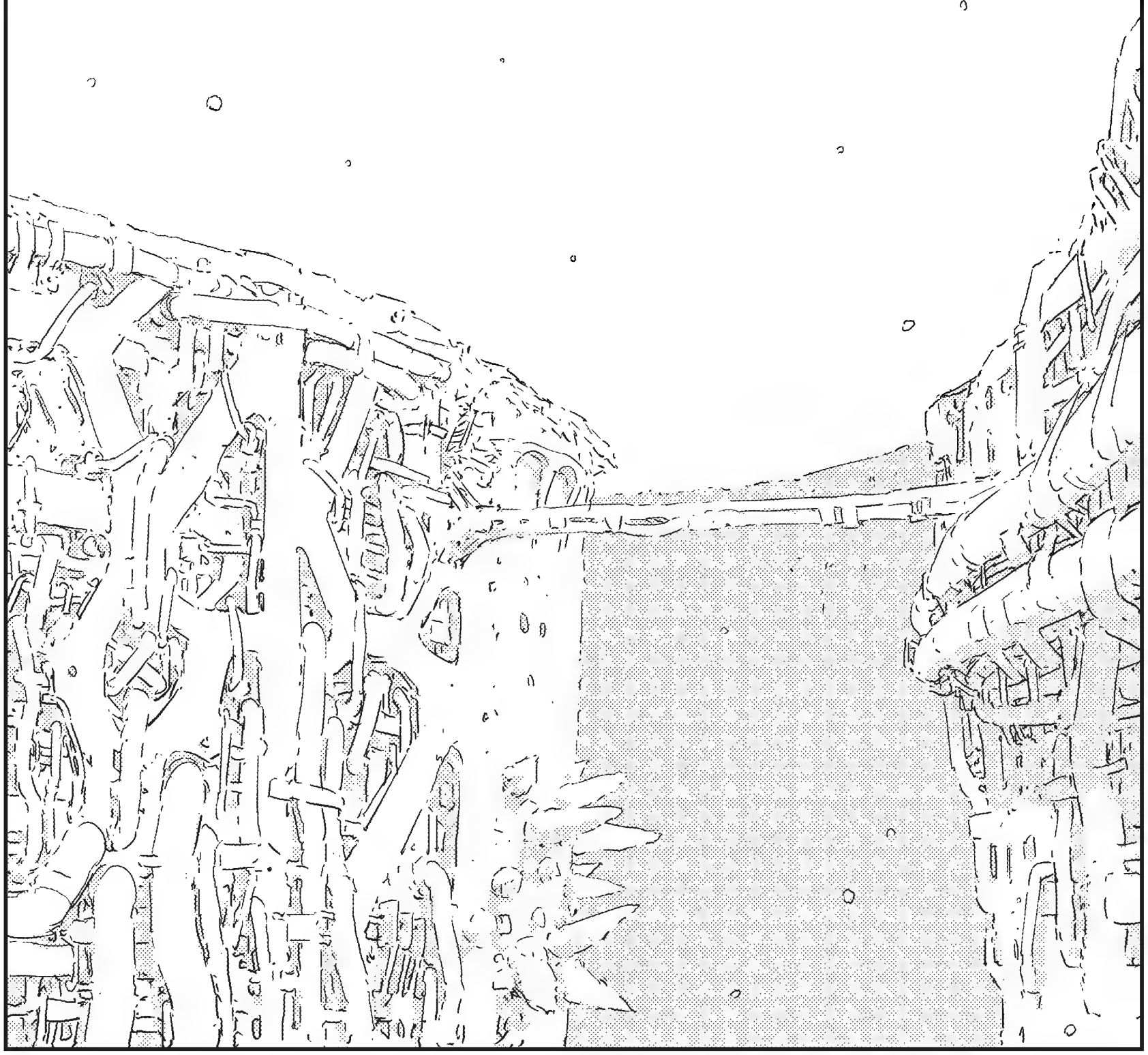
WHMF

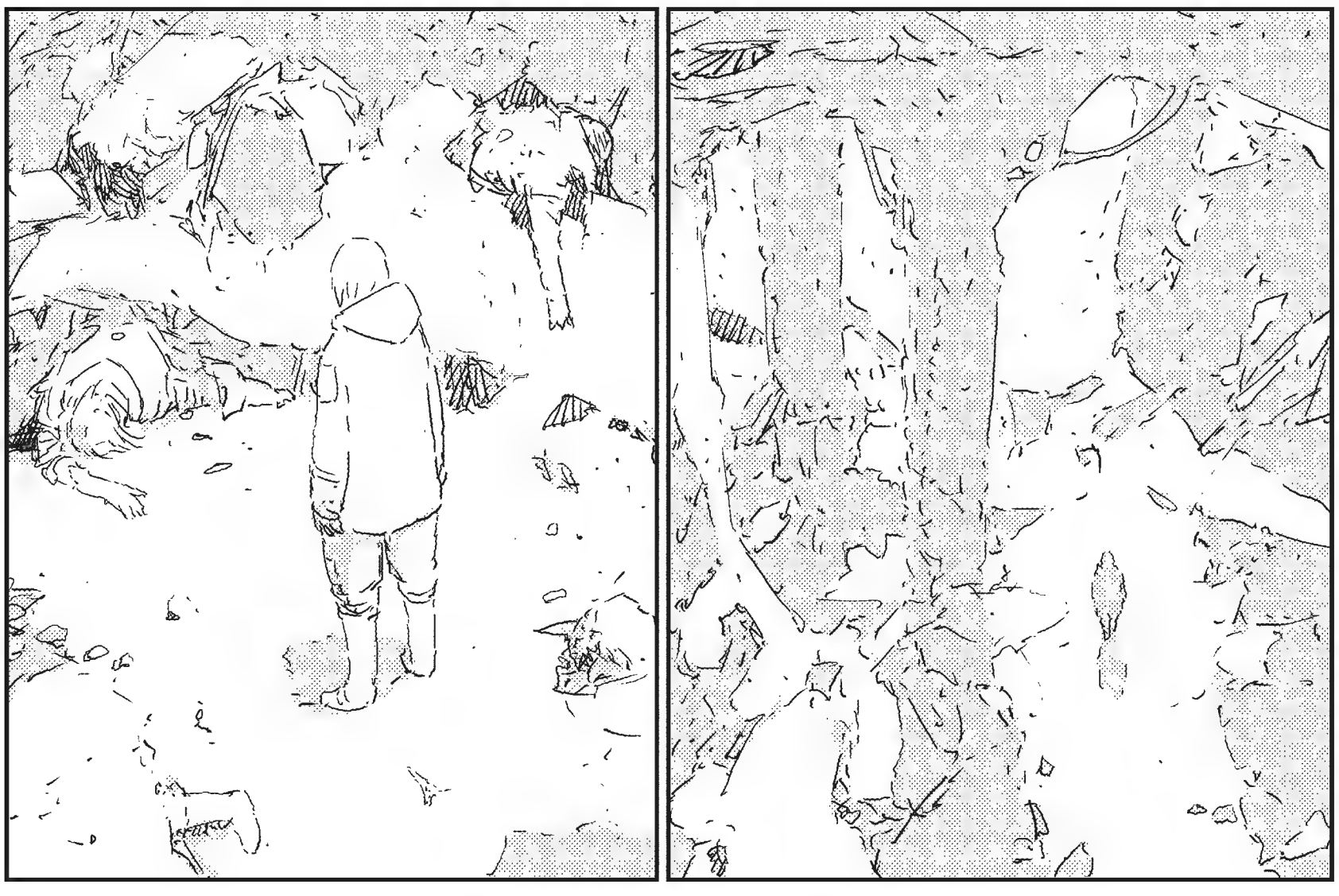
SSSHH

NEXT, USE YOUR REMAINING PLACENTA TO CREATE CLOTHING FOR YOURSELF.

GOOD! WELL DONE!

SSSHHHH



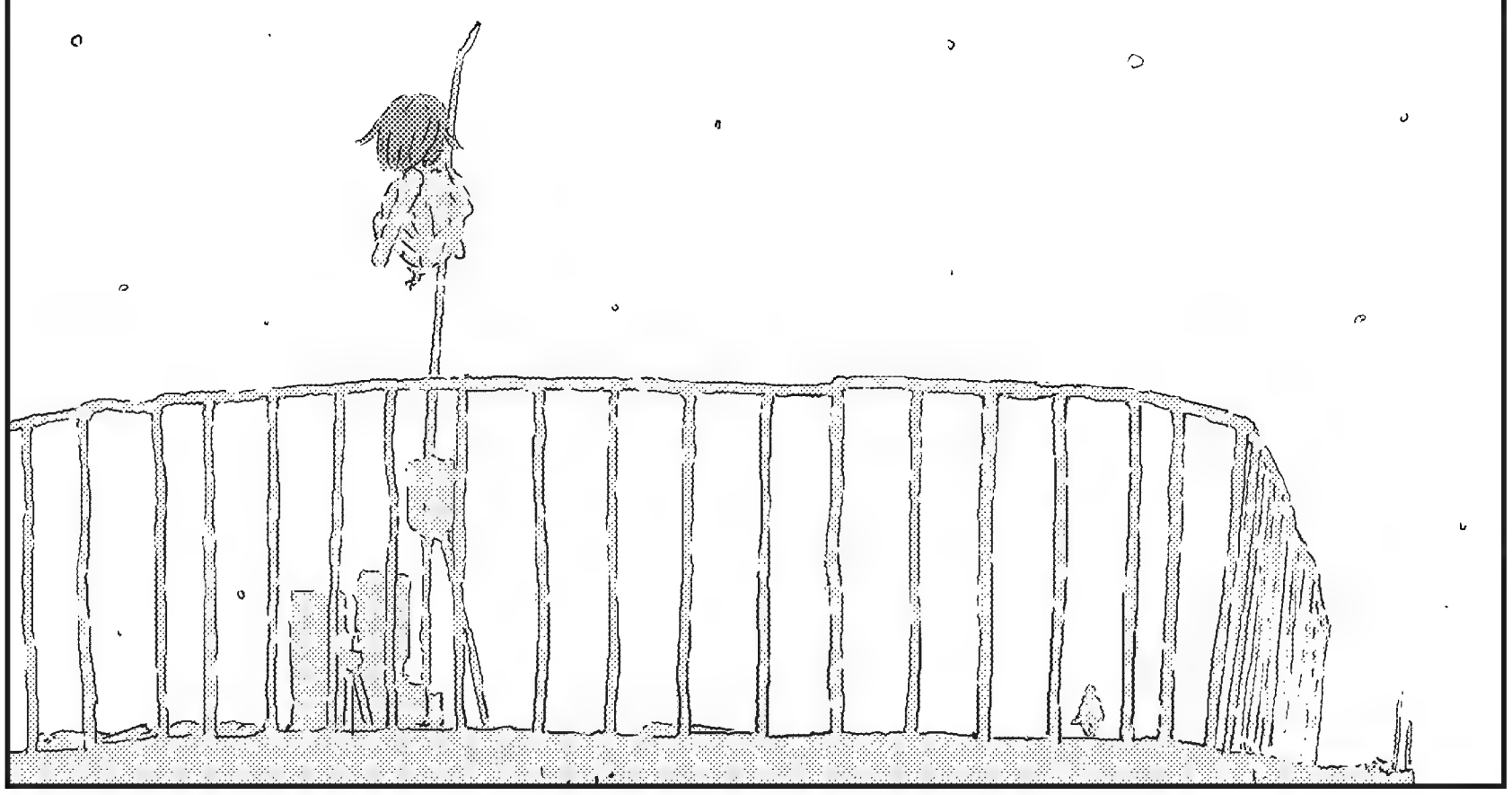


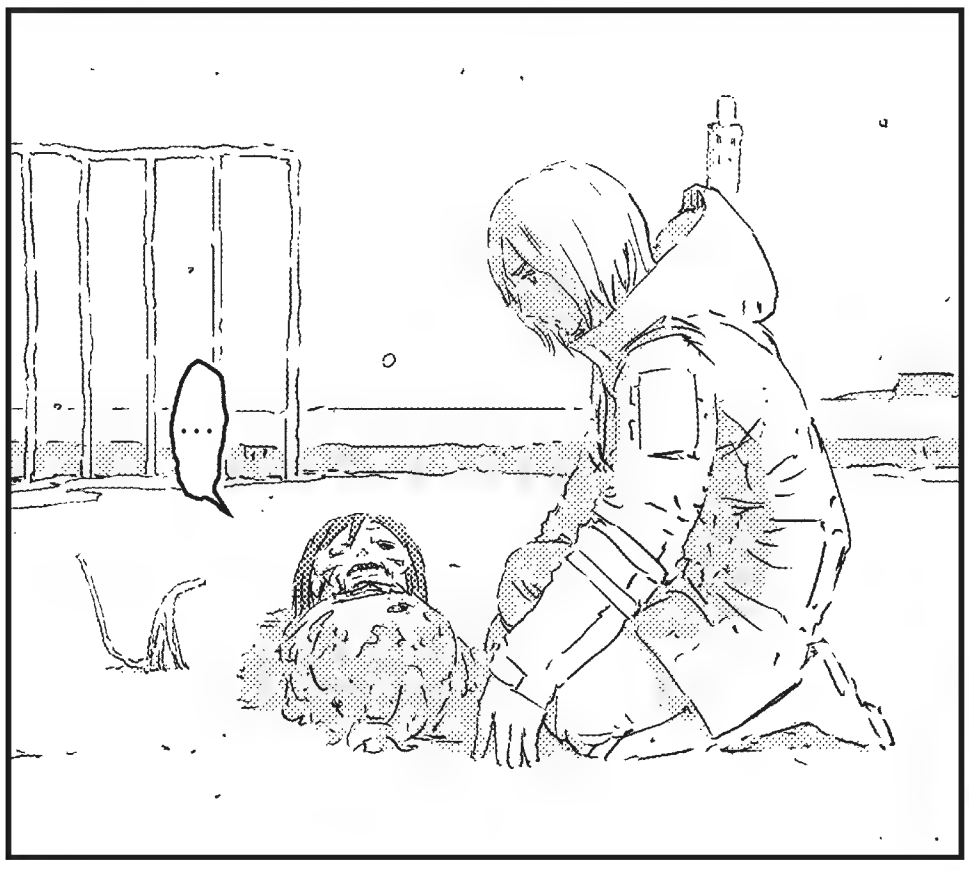
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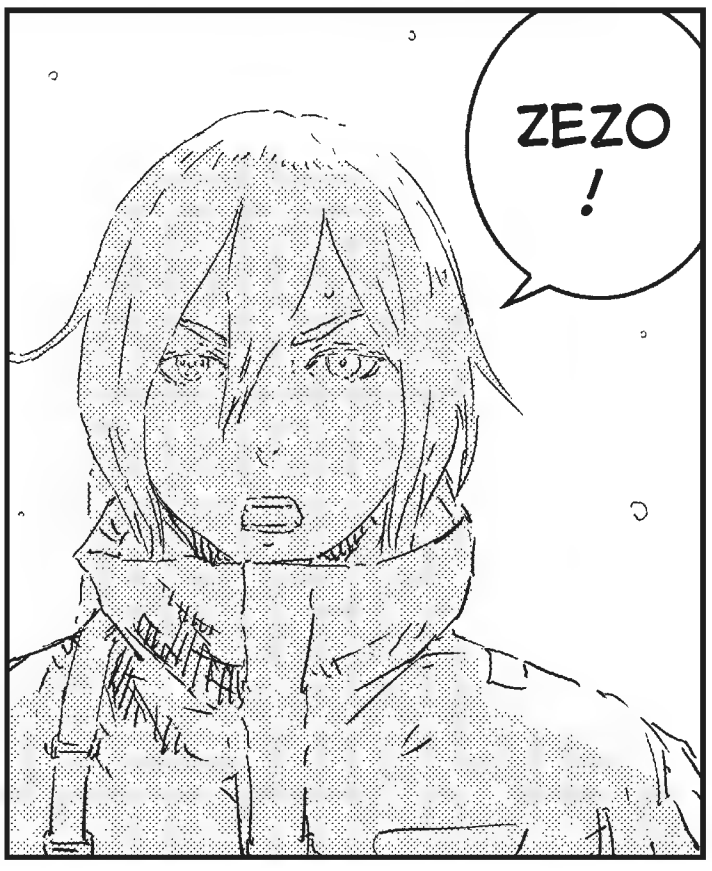
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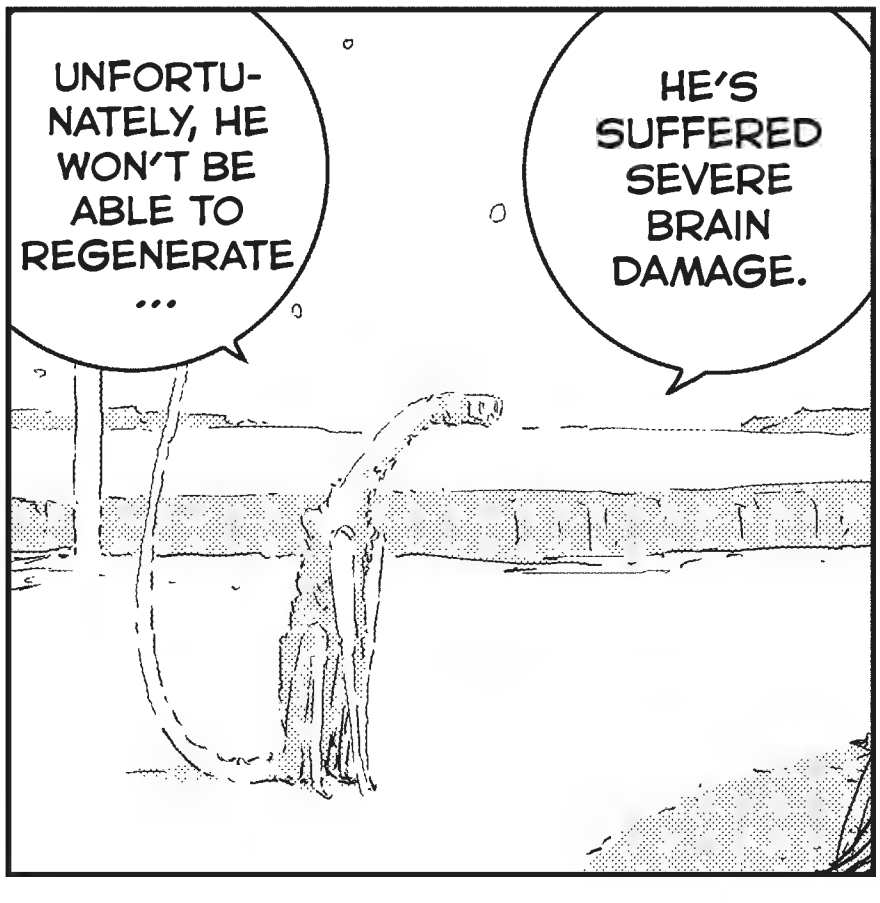
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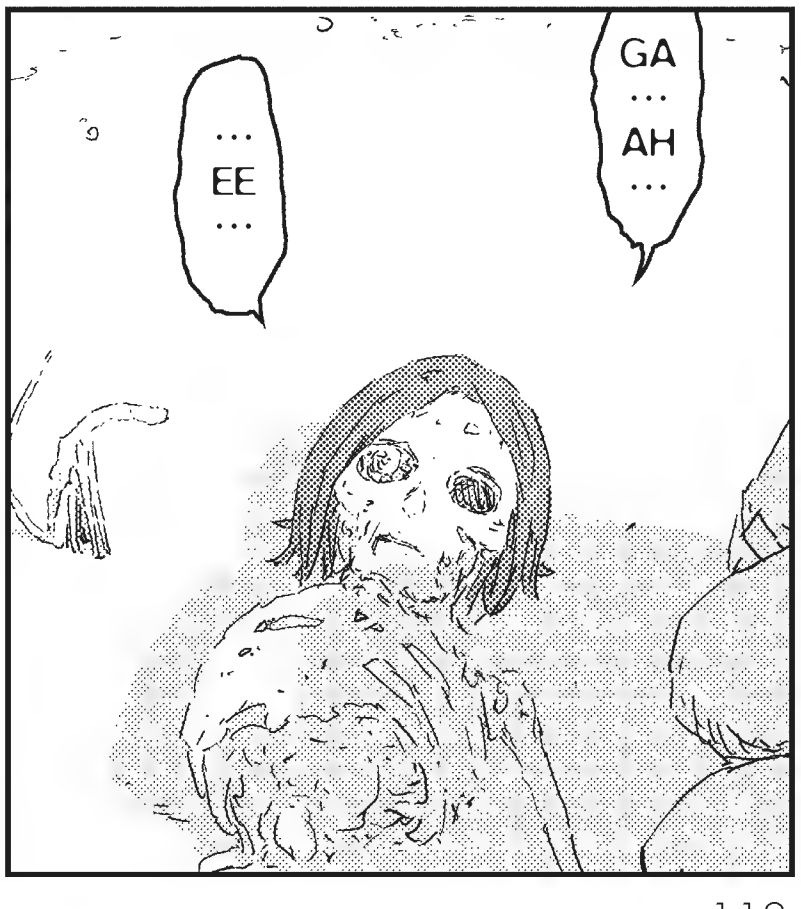
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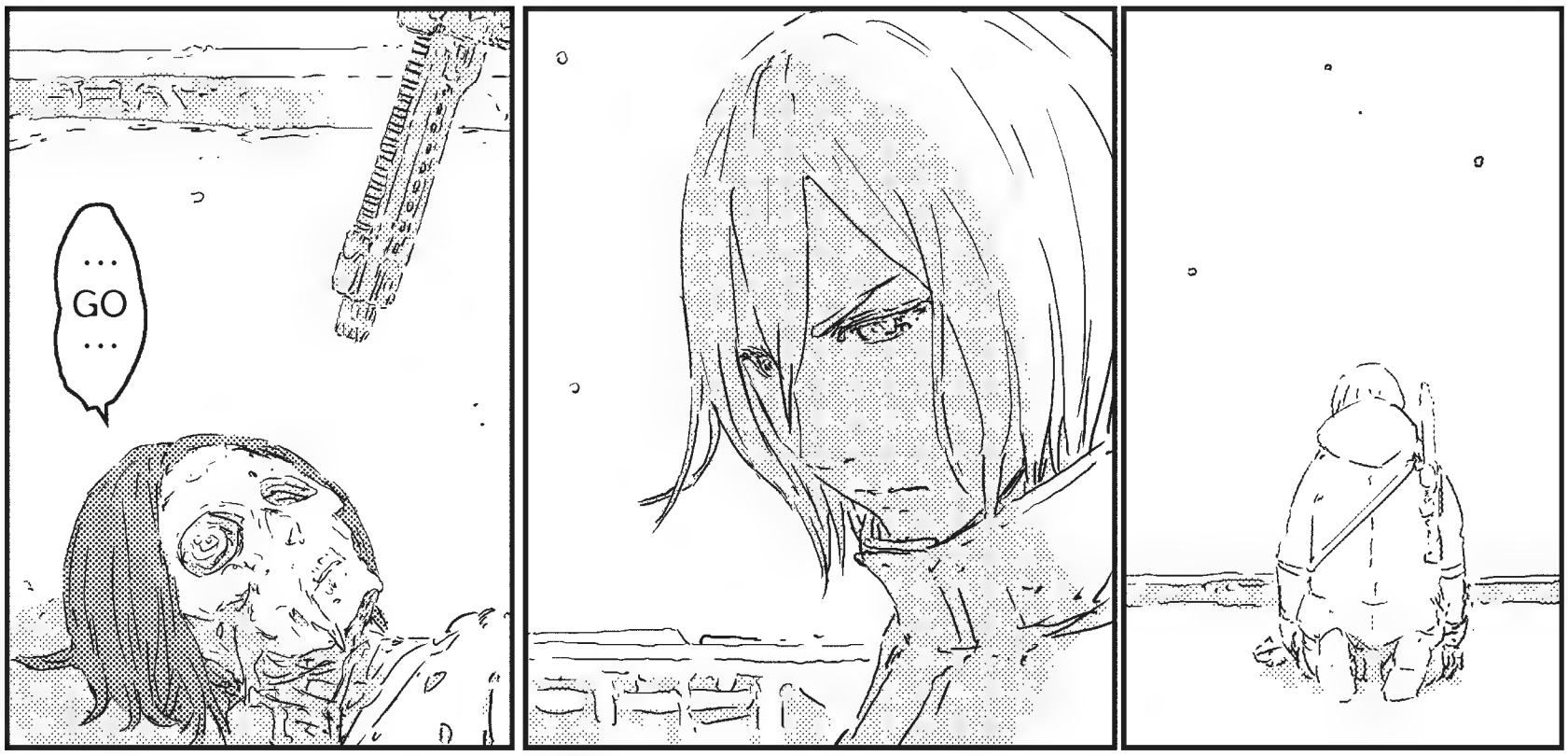


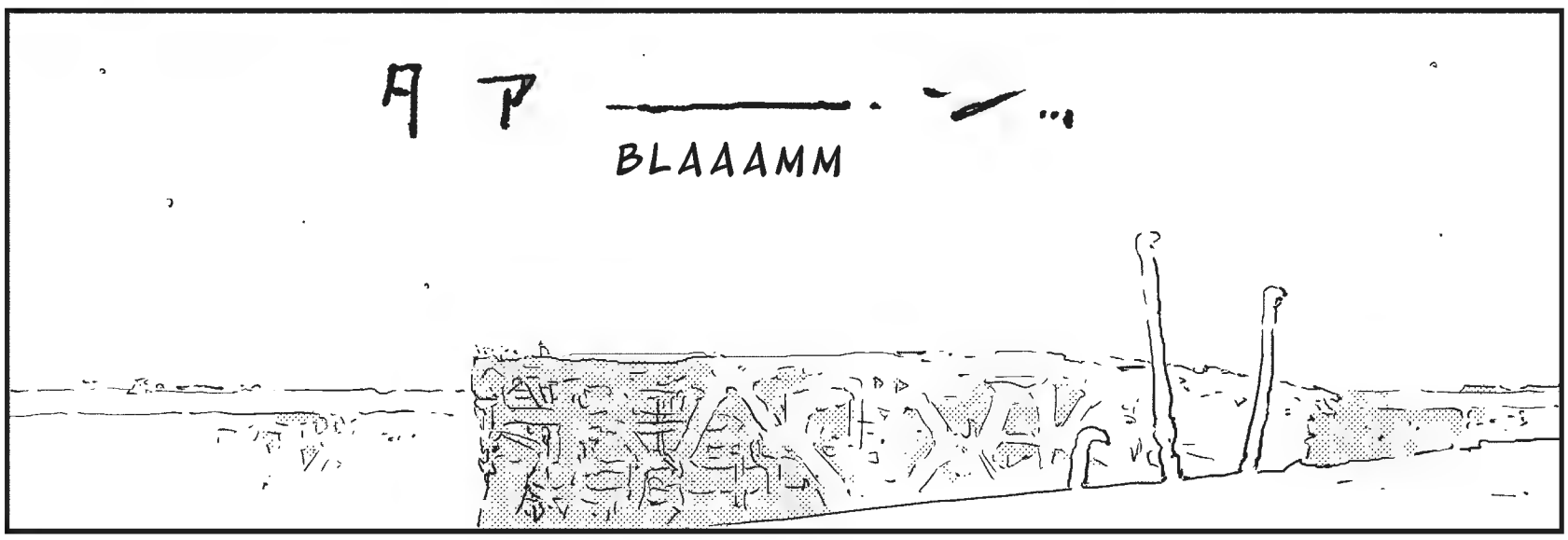

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ZEZO
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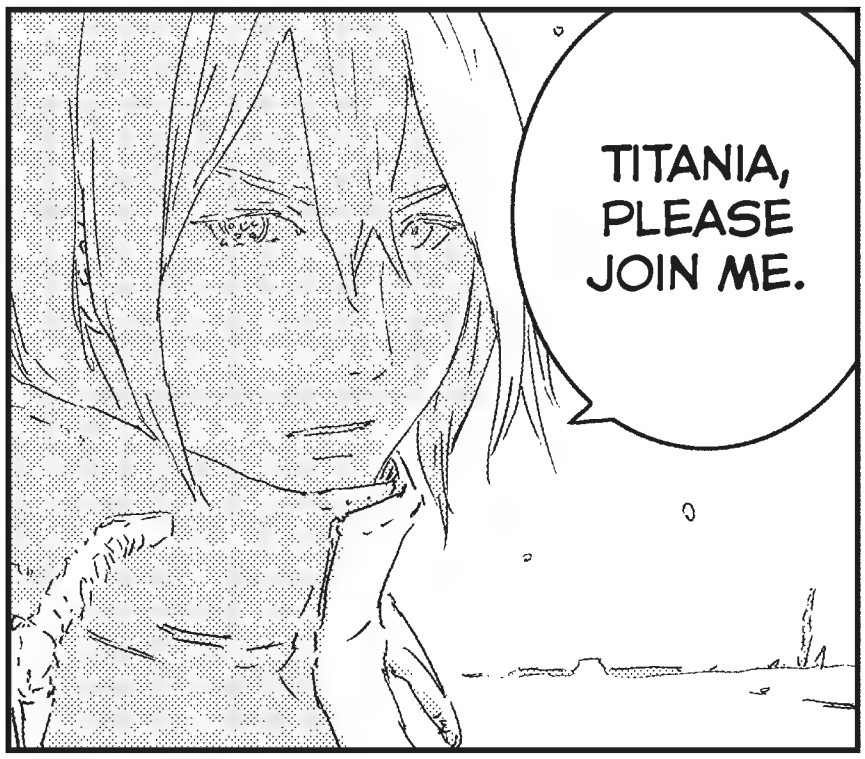

UNFORTU-
NATELY, HE
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
REGENERATE
...
HE'S
SUFFERED
SEVERE
BRAIN
DAMAGE.

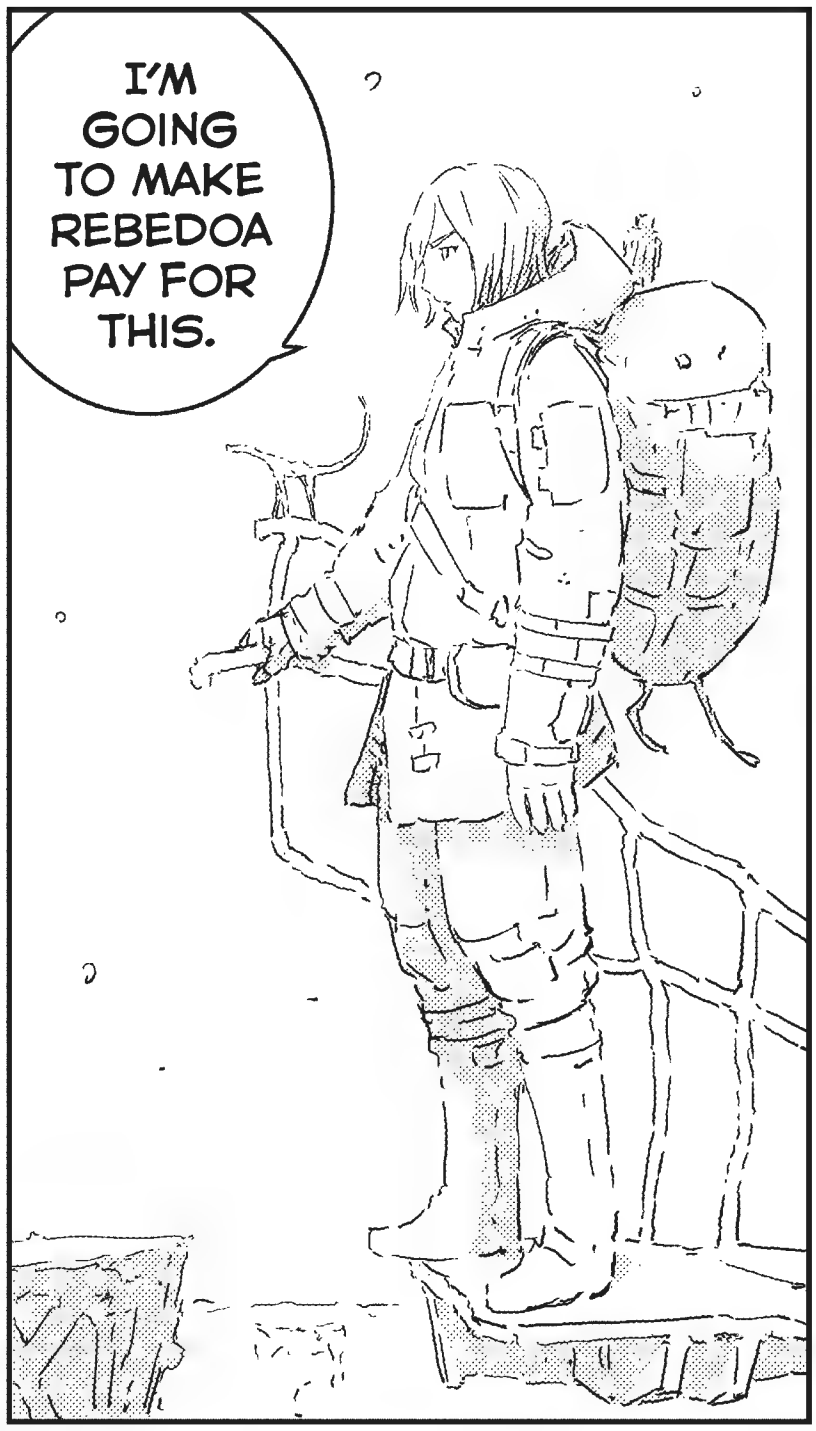

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AH
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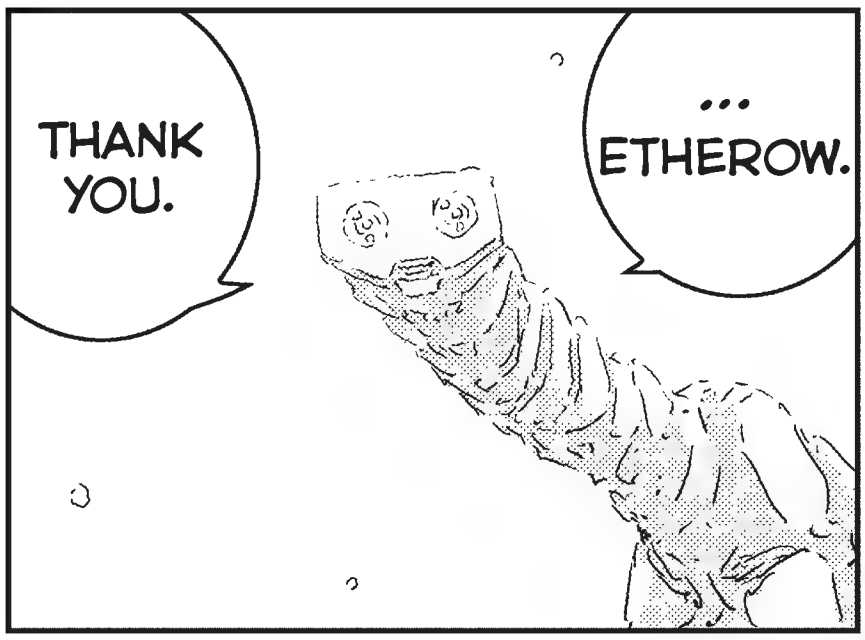

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GO
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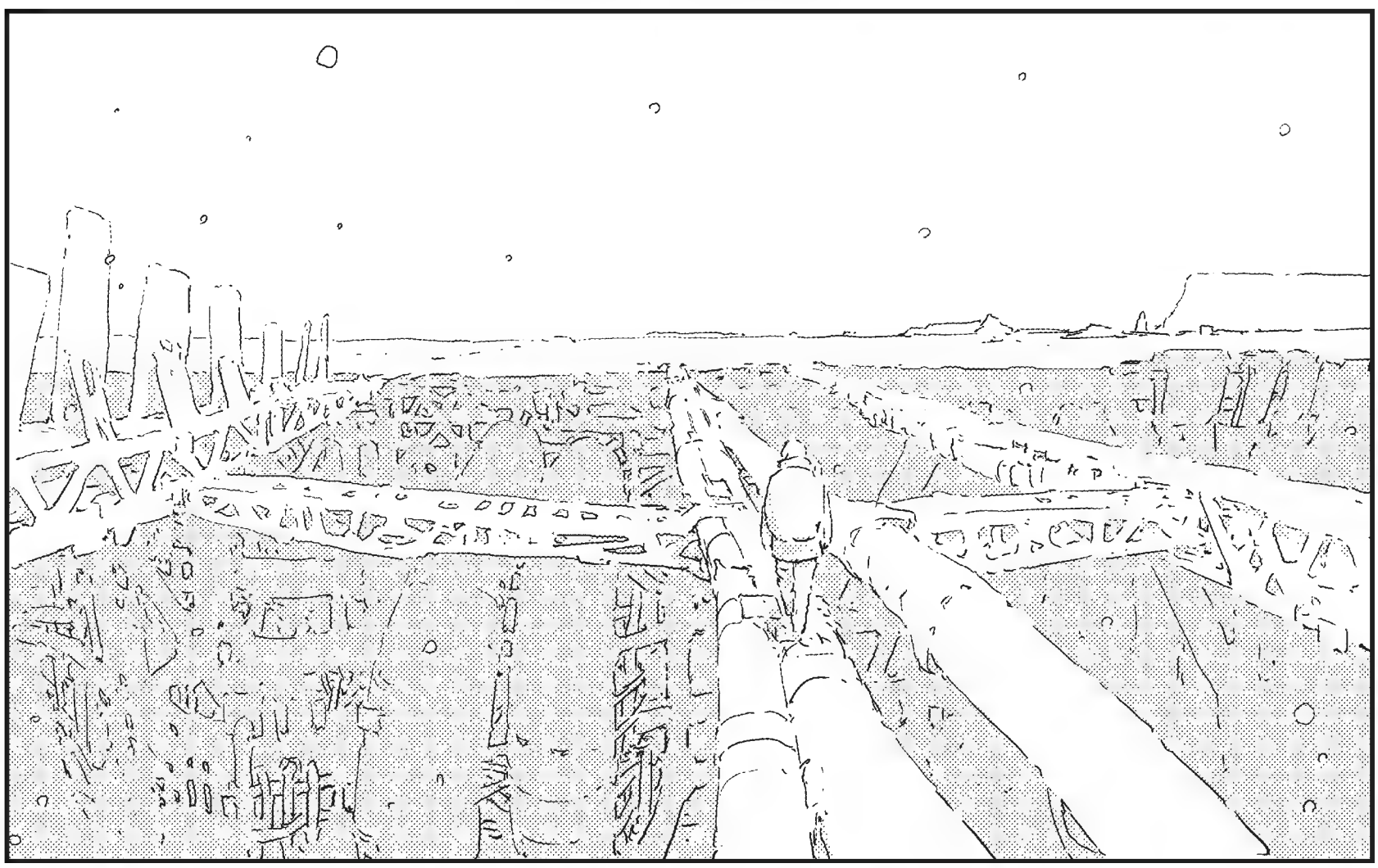

BLAAAMM





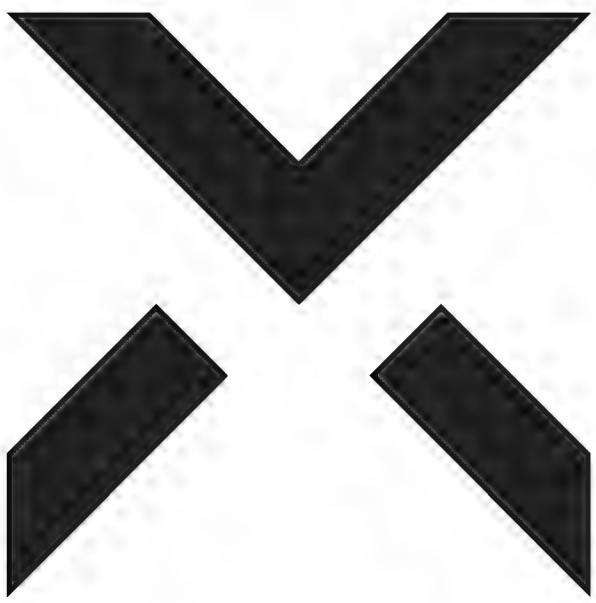




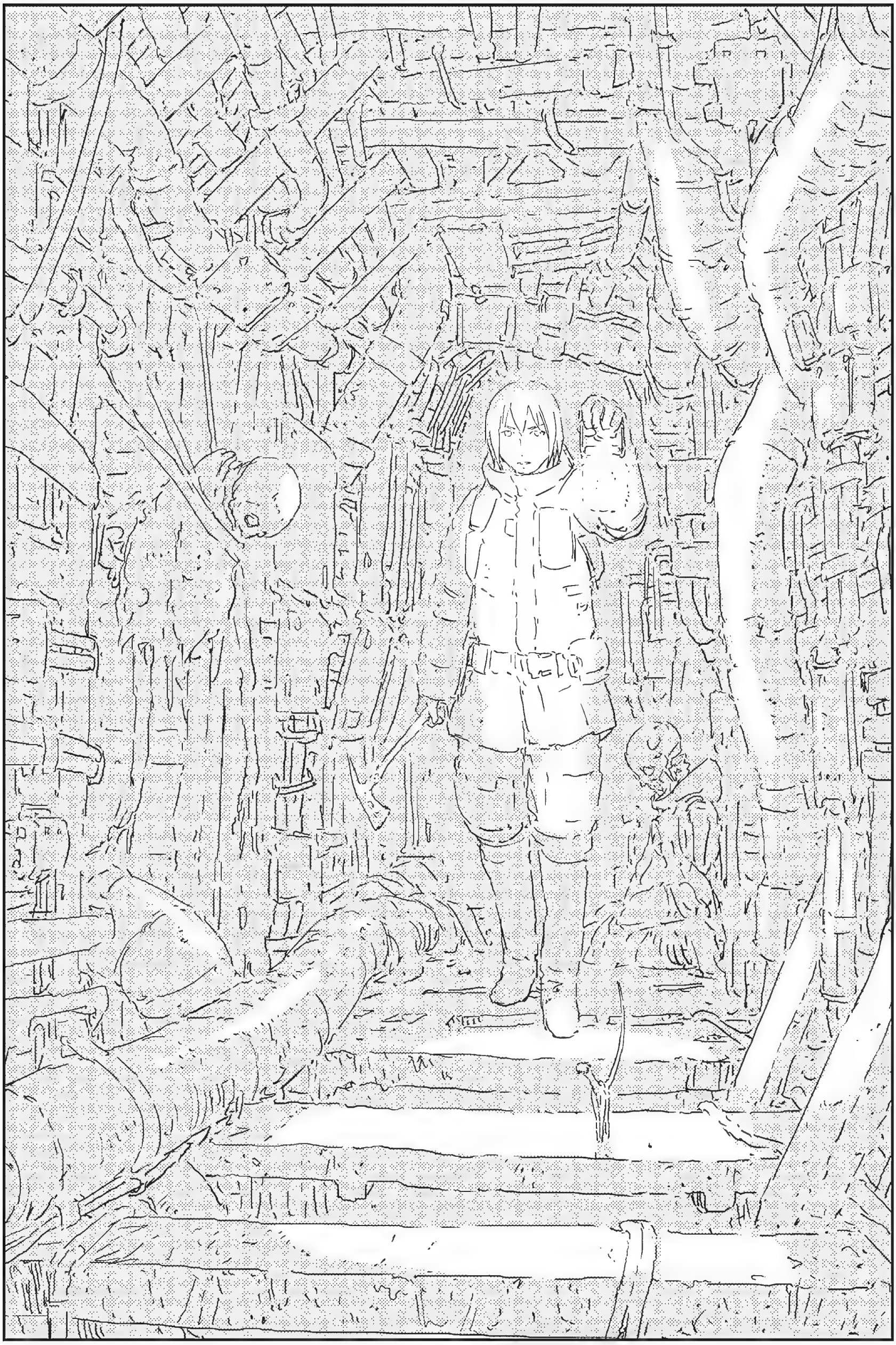


CHAPTER 02 END

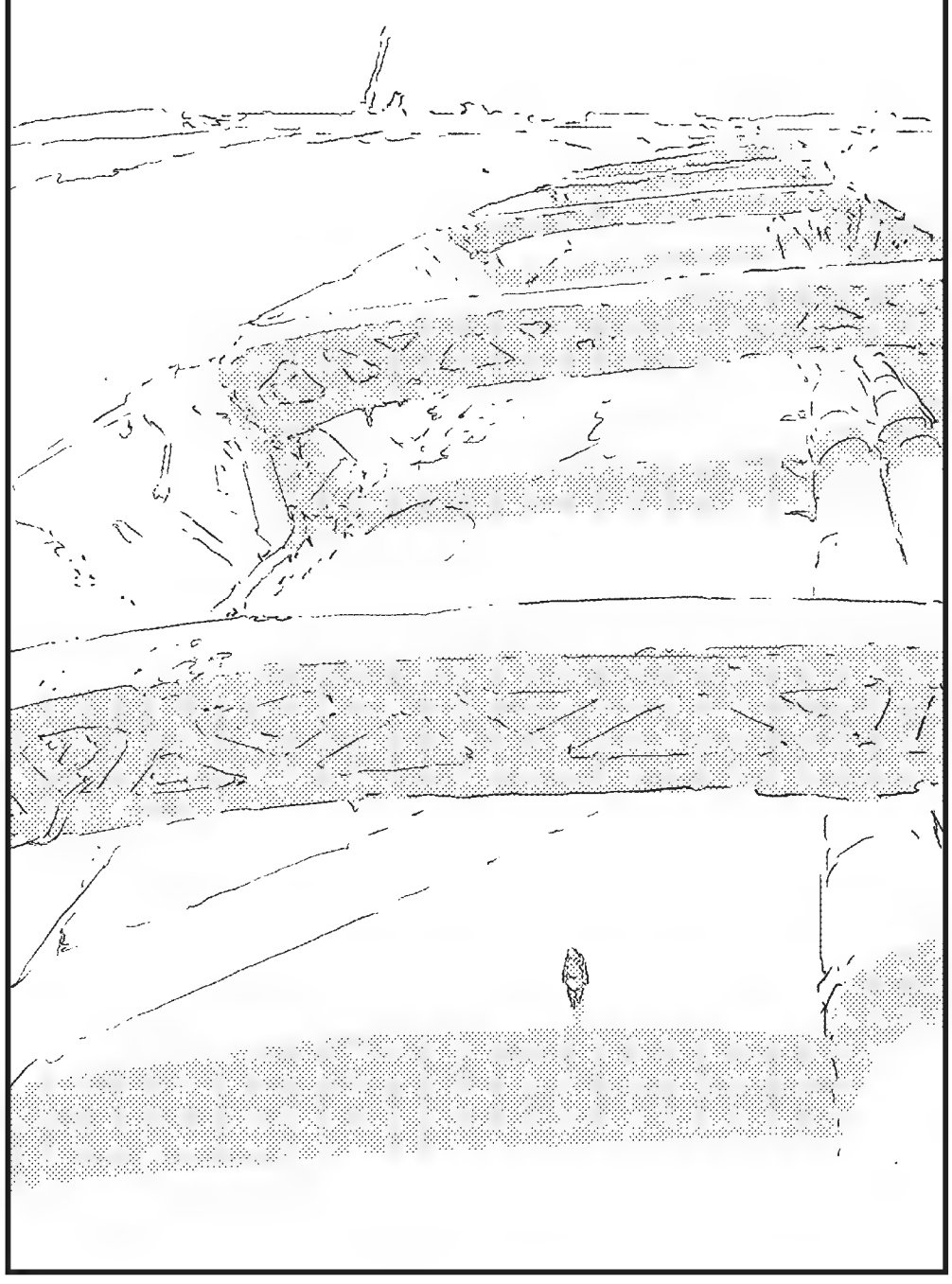
A P O S I M Z

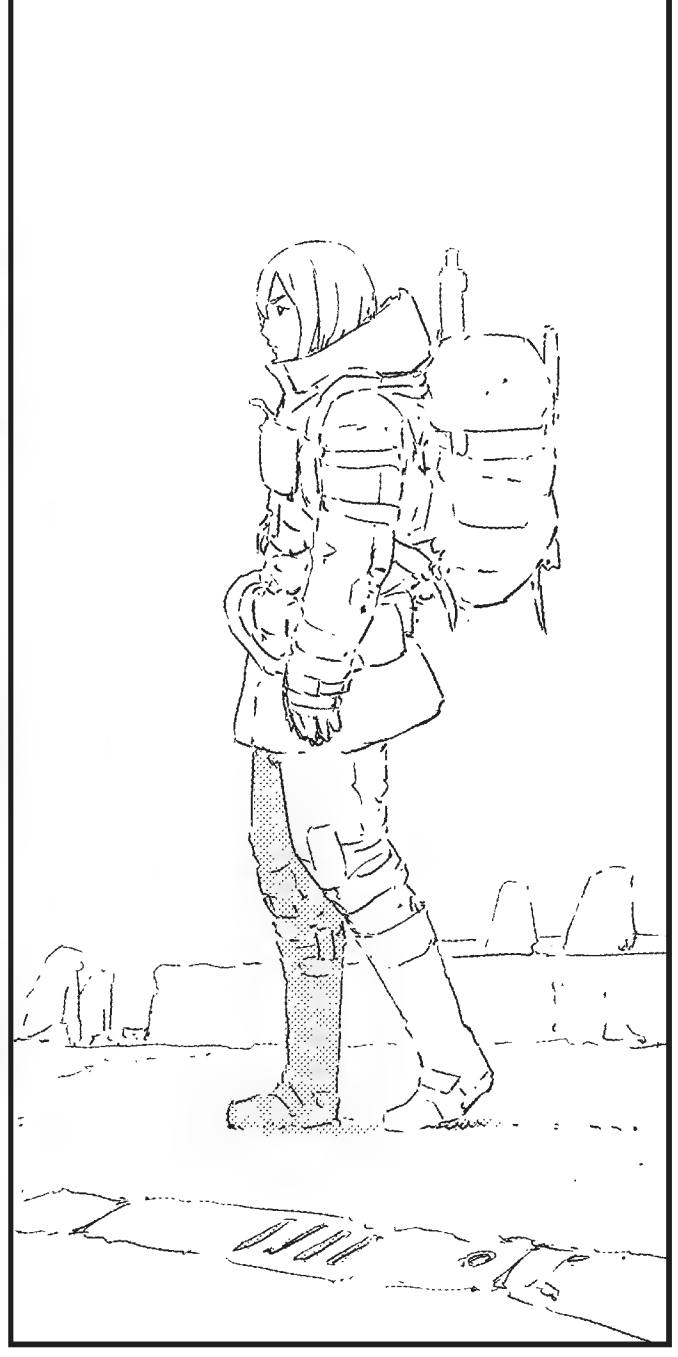


CHAPTER 03





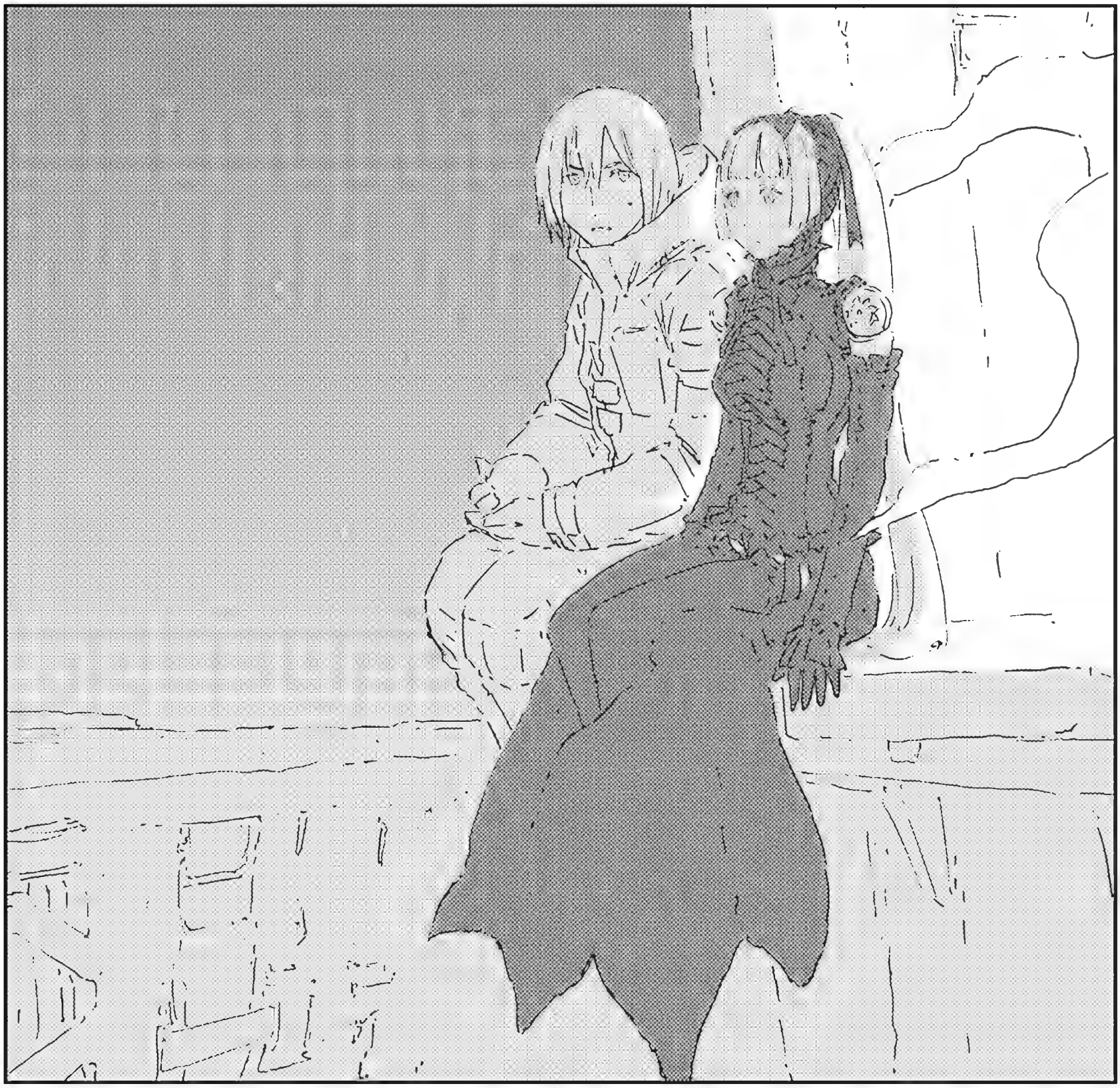




ONCE WE'RE ON BOARD, WE CAN REACH THE NORTHERN COMPOSITE SLAB REGION IN A FEW DAYS.

AT THIS RATE WE SHOULD REACH THE PLACE WITH THE TRACK CARS BY TOMORROW.





BUT THEY'RE REPLENISHED EVERY DAY AT ZERO HOUR.

I ONLY HAVE A TINY AMOUNT OF HAIGHS PARTICLES I CAN USE EACH DAY,

I TRY TO USE THEM UP JUST BEFORE ZERO HOUR, EVEN ON A DAY WHEN NOTHING HAS HAPPENED.

SO WHETHER I'VE USED ANY OR NOT,

HEH HEH. PRETTY GOOD!

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?

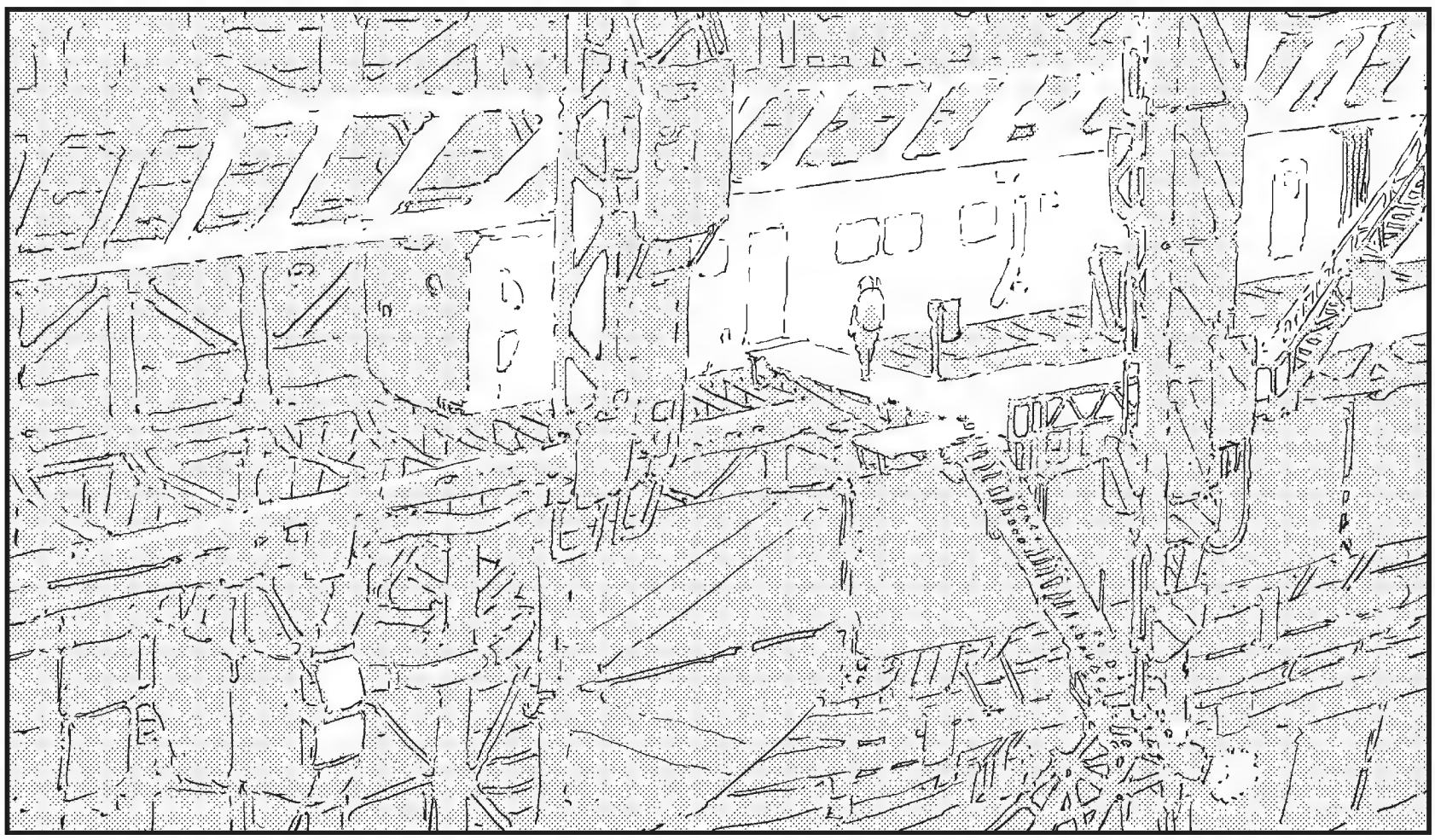
ズ" ズ"… ZMM

THERE MIGHT'VE BEEN A MALFUNCTION DURING THE TRANSFORMATION STAGE. IT'LL STAND OUT WHEN WE'RE AROUND PEOPLE.

BY THE WAY, ETHEROW... YOUR RIGHT EYE HAS STAYED IN FRAME FORM.







...

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID, ETHEROW. NOW, LET'S GET IN.

I'VE HEARD THAT IT TAKES YOU UNBELIEVABLY FAR AWAY AND YOU CAN NEVER COME BACK...

IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR US TO RIDE THIS?

ヒュオオオ

FWEEEEEEEEEEE

I JUST REMEMBERED. BETTER LOAD THE AMBS RIGHT NOW.

I LEAVE THEM ALL IN YOUR HANDS, SO I'LL LET YOU DECIDE HOW TO USE THEM.

I CAN USE PLACENTA BULLETS TO TAKE DOWN REGULAR FRAMES WITHOUT RELYING ON AMBS.

BUT NEVER FORGET THAT WE ONLY HAVE SEVEN OF THEM.

THEN I'LL FINISH THEM OFF WITH ONE SHOT.

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIRE MULTIPLE HIGH-POWER PLACENTA BULLETS THAT ARE CAPABLE OF PIERCING ARMOR.

FIRING PLACENTA EXPENDS A GREAT AMOUNT OF HAIGHS PARTICLES.

AN ARMORED REGULAR FRAME EMITS HAIGHS PARTICLES, WHICH GIVE AWAY ITS LOCATION.

IN ORDER TO USE YOUR EBTG, WHICH YOU NEED TO FIRE PLACENTA, YOU NEED TO ARMOR UP.

THEN I'LL SNIPE HIM FROM A DISTANCE.

YIYU IS CERTAIN TO COME UP WITH COUNTERMEASURES. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO STRIKE HIM BY SURPRISE LIKE BEFORE.

AT YOUR CURRENT HAIGHS PARTICLE CAPACITY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIRE FROM A POSITION WHERE YOU WON'T BE DETECTED.

FIRING FROM A DISTANCE REQUIRES AN EVEN GREATER CONSUMPTION OF HAIGHS PARTICLES.

YOUR BODY HAS HEALED VERY WELL. YOU'VE MADE A FULL RECOVERY.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU EAT NOW, IT WON'T INCREASE YOUR CAPACITY AT ALL.

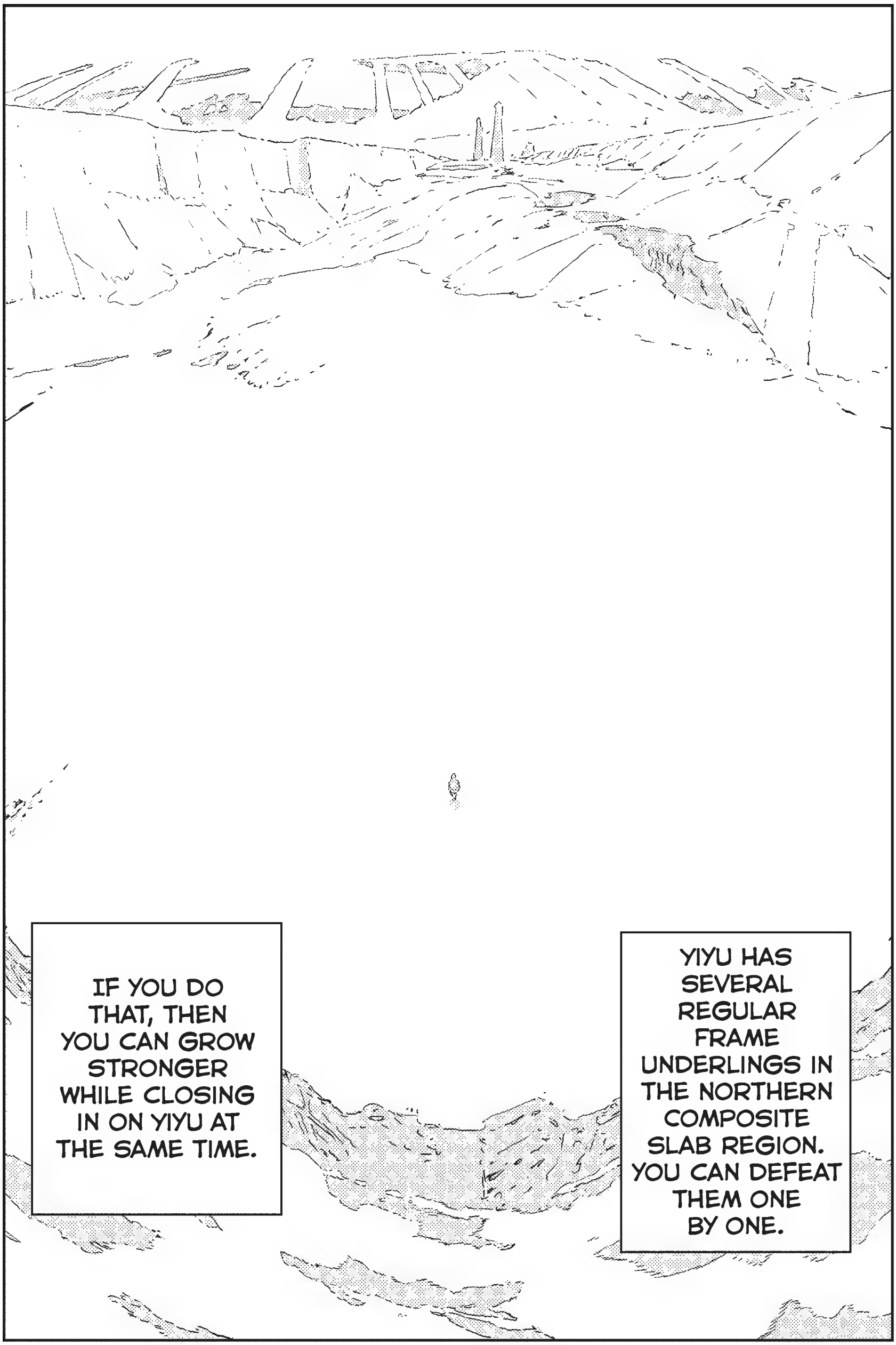
KRUNCH

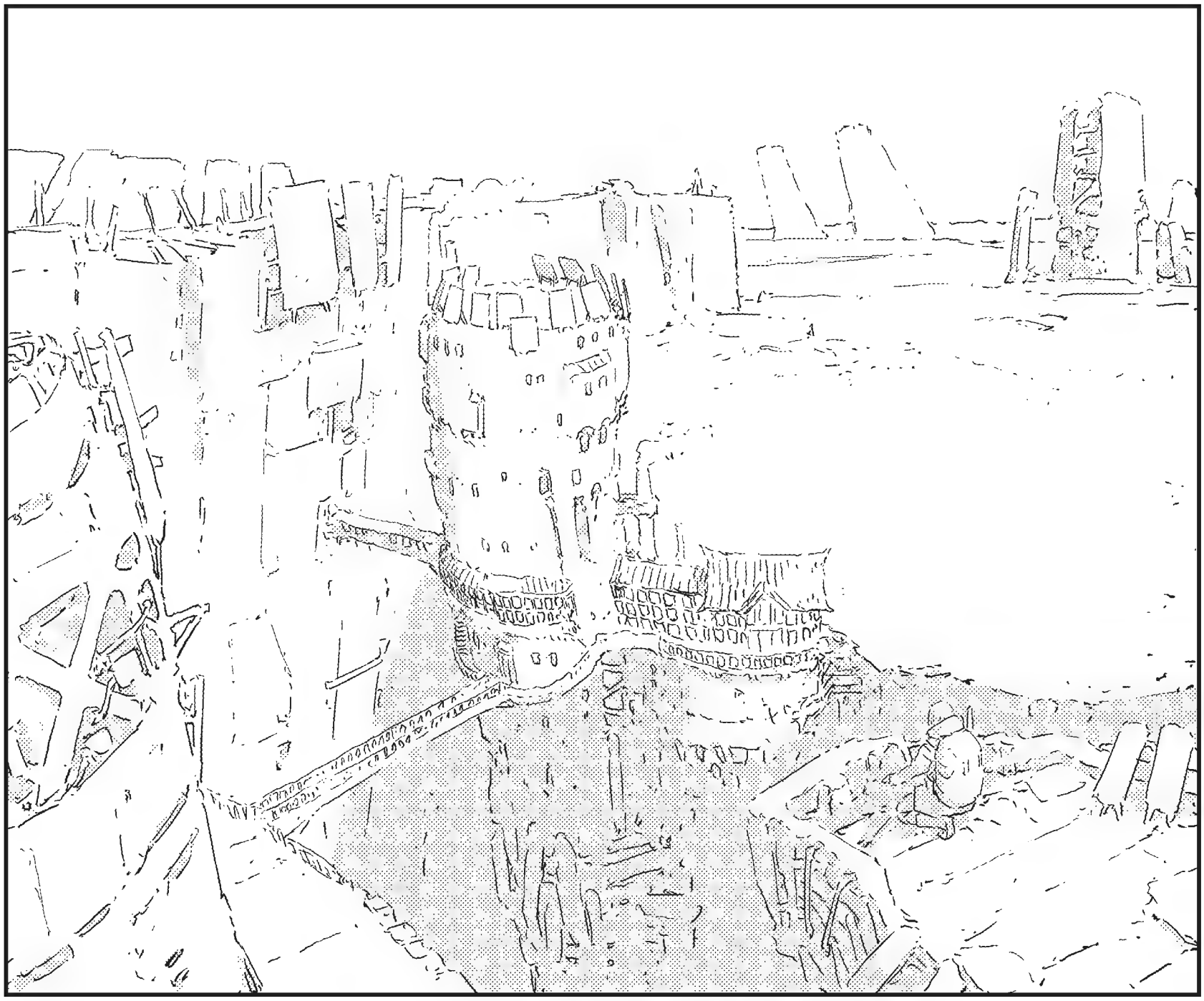
SO THEN I HAVE TO EAT MORE AND BUILD UP MORE HAIGHS PARTICLES, RIGHT?

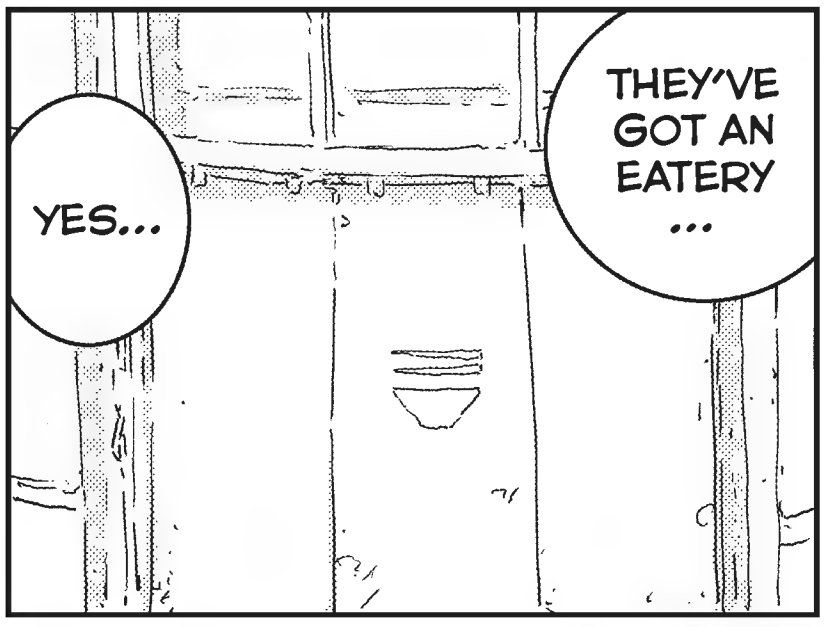
SO I CAN'T INCREASE MY CAPACITY?

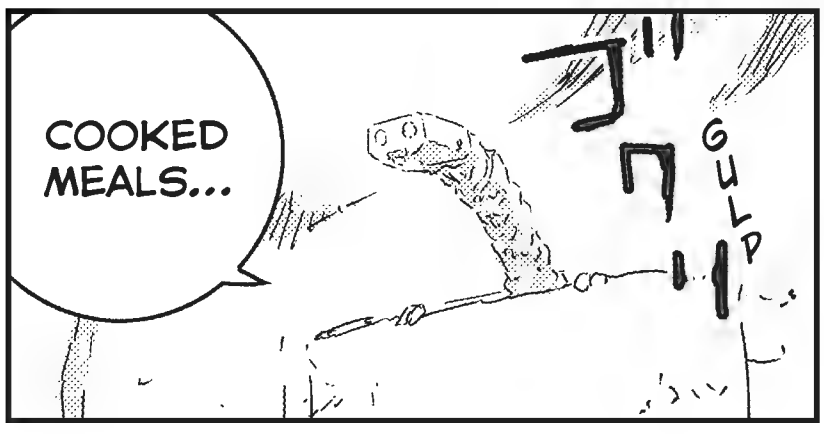
THE SIZE OF YOUR TANK WAS SET WHEN YOU TRANS-FORMED.

WELL, IF YOU DEFEAT A REGULAR FRAME AND STEAL ITS PLACENTA, YOU CAN EXPAND YOUR CAPACITY.

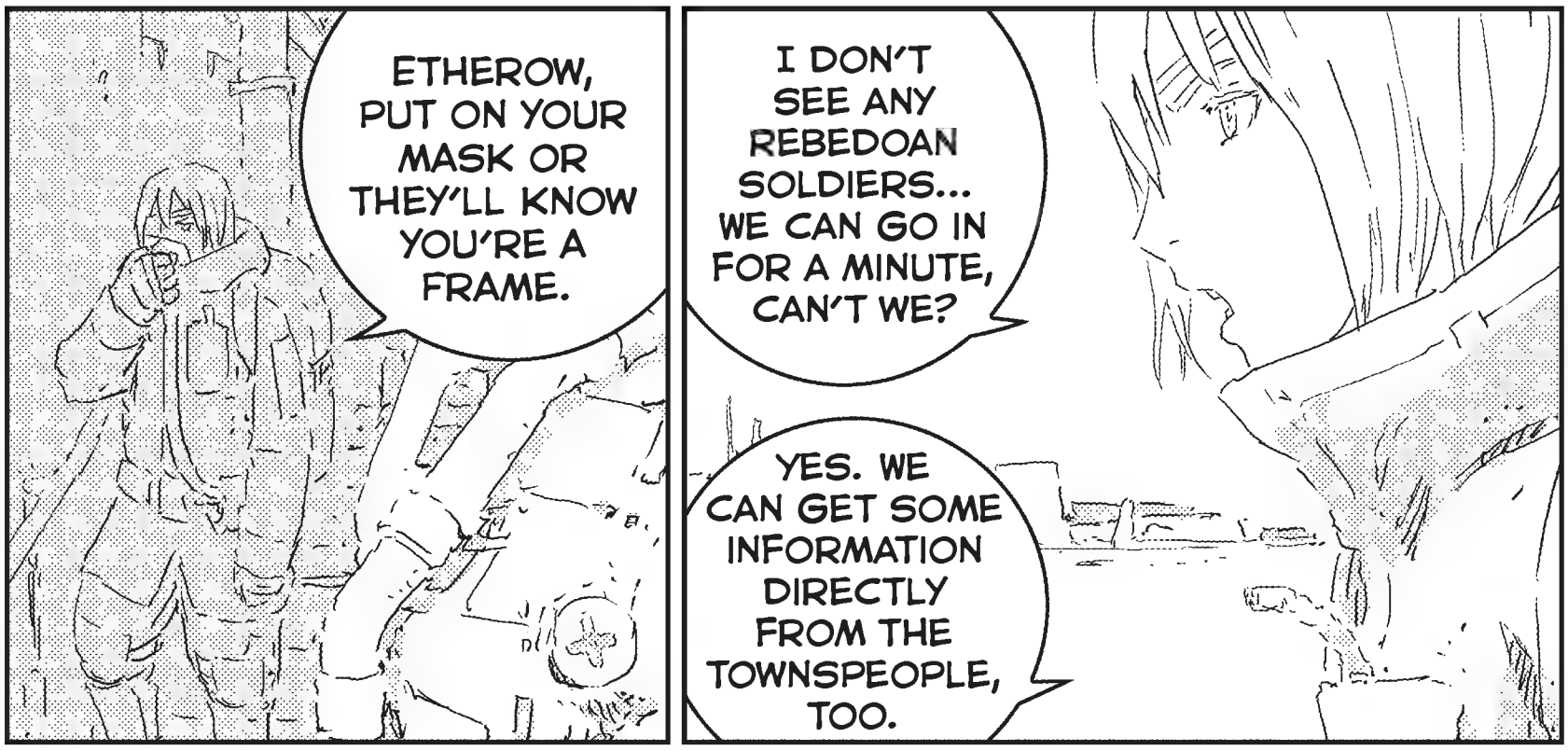

IF YOU DO THAT, THEN YOU CAN GROW STRONGER WHILE CLOSING IN ON YIYU AT THE SAME TIME.
YIYU HAS SEVERAL REGULAR FRAME UNDERLINGS IN THE NORTHERN COMPOSITE SLAB REGION. YOU CAN DEFEAT THEM ONE BY ONE.

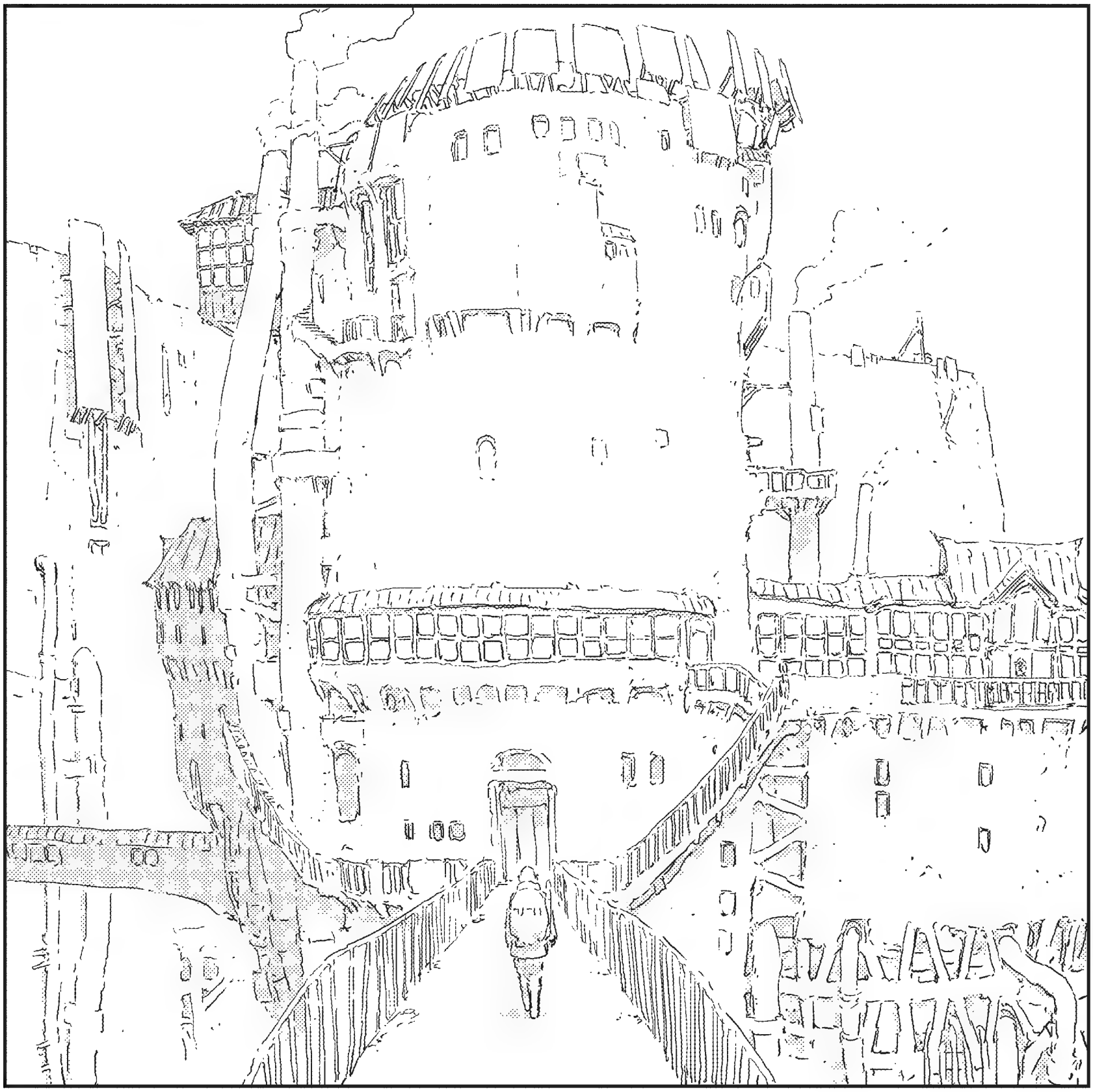


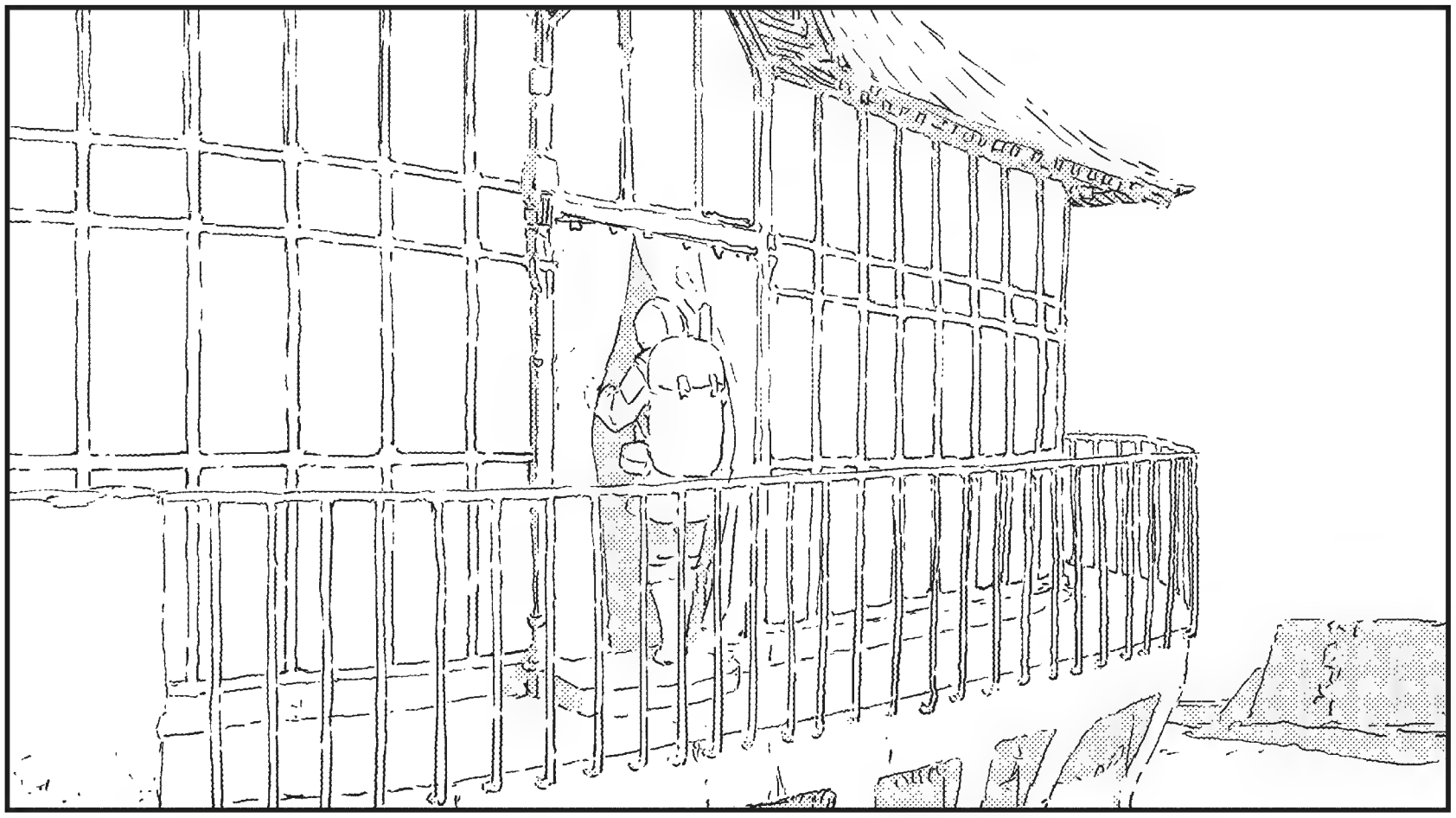

YES...
THEY'VE GOT AN EATERY ...

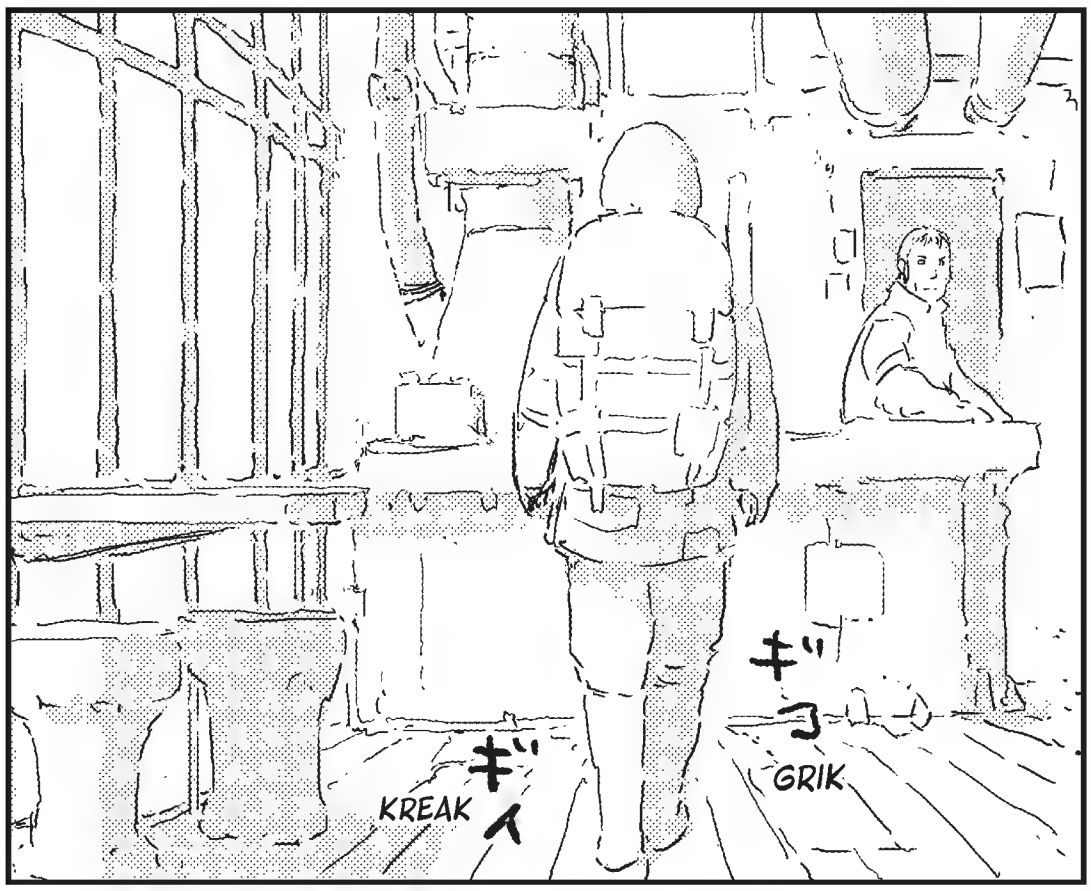

COOKED MEALS...
GULP


THERE'S A LANDING FIELD. SURE ENOUGH, REBEDOAN SHIPS MUST MAKE REGULAR STOPS HERE.
THIS TOWN IS USED BY THE REBEDOAN ARMY AS A SUPPLY SITE.

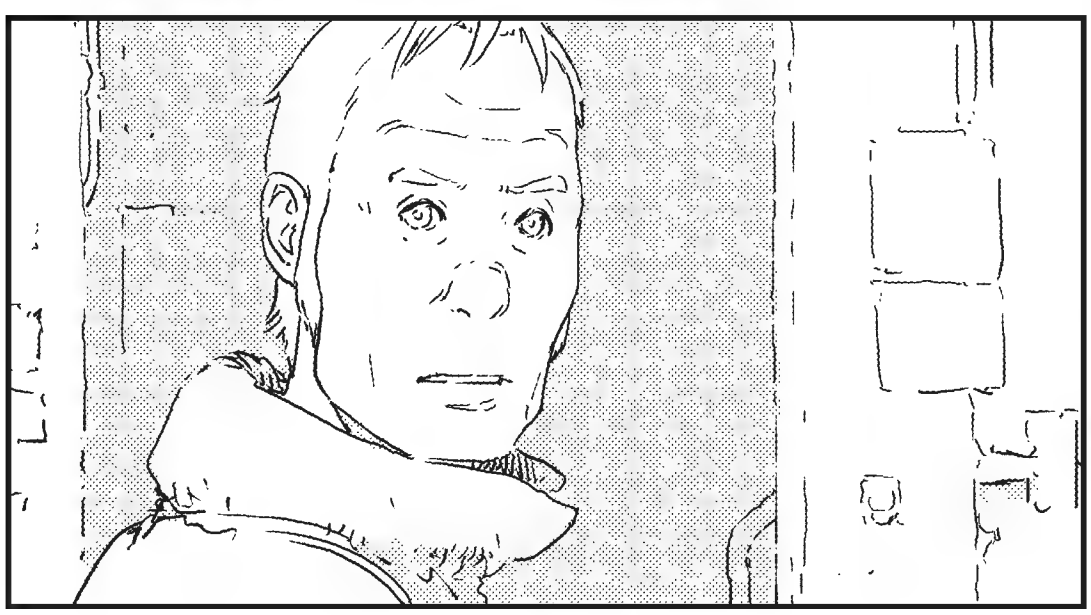

ETHEROW, PUT ON YOUR MASK OR THEY'LL KNOW YOU'RE A FRAME.
I DON'T SEE ANY REBEDOAN SOLDIERS... WE CAN GO IN FOR A MINUTE, CAN'T WE?
YES. WE CAN GET SOME INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THE TOWNSPEOPLE, TOO.






KREAK
GRIK


SHRAK



COULD I GET SOMETHING TO EAT?

CLINK

UH... SORRY, BUT WE'RE NOT SERVING FOOD AT THE MOMENT.

I'LL MAKE YOU SOMETHING. PLEASE HAVE A SEAT!

HUH?! A CUSTOMER ...?!

SORRY. WE CAN'T USE MUCH WATER, SO THIS IS ABOUT ALL WE CAN DO.

HERE YOU GO.

THANK YOU.

SINCE YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS TOWN, YOU MUST HAVE COME FROM FAR AWAY, RIGHT?

WHAT A CUTE AUTO-MATON!

IT TALKS!

THAT'S RIGHT. I TRAVEL AROUND SELLING EXCAVATED ARTIFACTS.

ARE YOU A PEDDLER OR SOME-THING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ABOUT INSUFFICIENT WATER? YOU SEEM TO HAVE SEVERAL WATER MAINS.

HEY, AREN'T YOU EATING A BIT TOO MUCH...?

AND IF WE DON'T PRODUCE ENOUGH, SOME OF US END UP LIKE THEM.

IT'S REBEDOA. THEY TAKE IT ALL AWAY.

EXPLOSIVE SCREWS...

WHAT THE ?!

EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN HAS THEM.

REIN-CARNATED?! YOU MEAN A REGULAR FRAME?!

HOW HORRIBLE ...

IT'S THE WORK OF A REIN-CARNATED NAMED JIO.

NOT EVERY TIME, BUT OFTEN...

DOES THIS REIN-CARNATED ALWAYS COME HERE?

IN ANY CASE, IT'S BEST YOU DON'T STAY TOO LONG IN THIS TOWN.

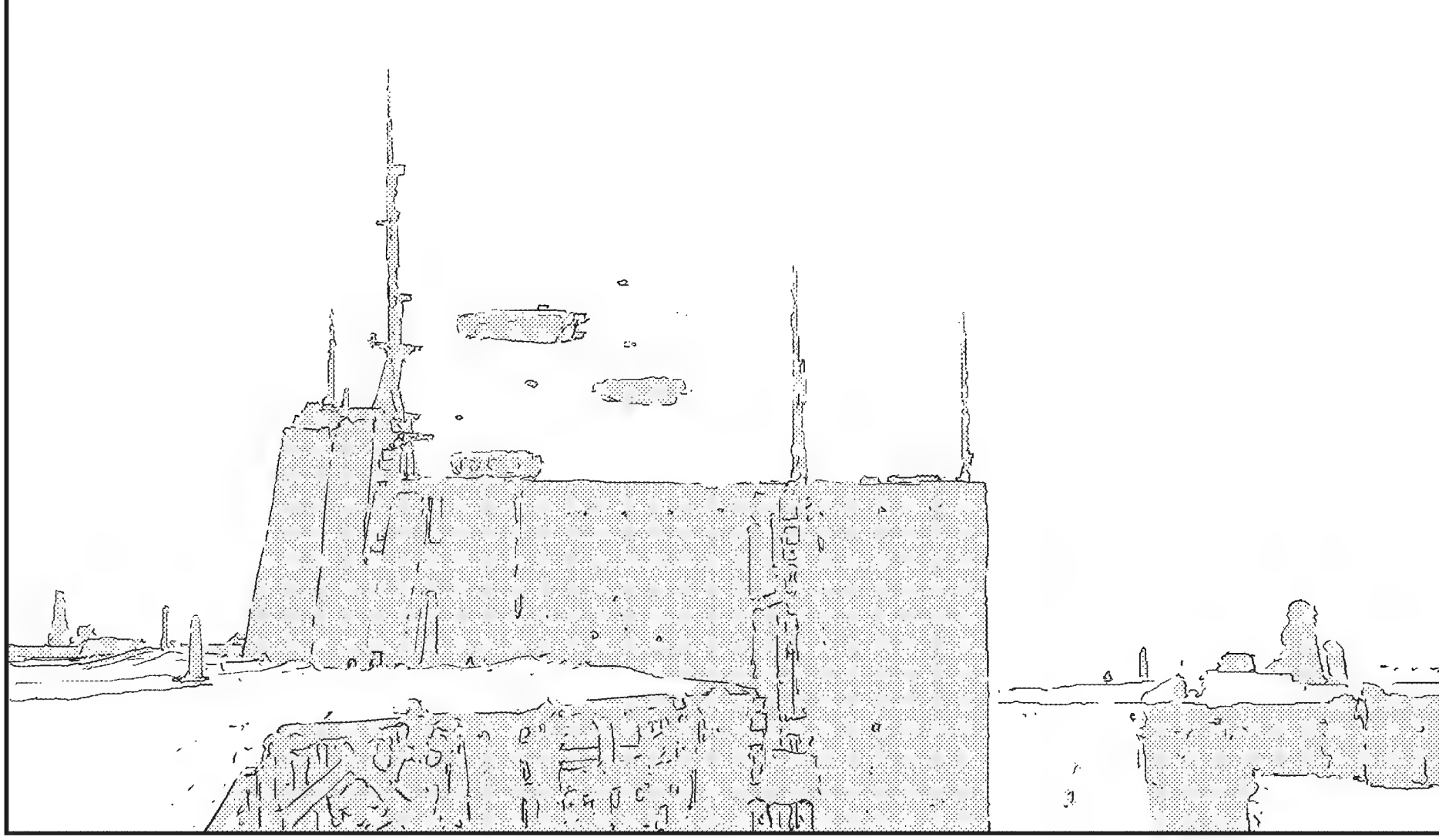
BUT WHETHER JIO SHOWS UP OR NOT,

SOMEONE ALWAYS GETS KILLED...

LIE IN WAIT, AND THEN KILL HIM.

HE WON'T BE DANGEROUS. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

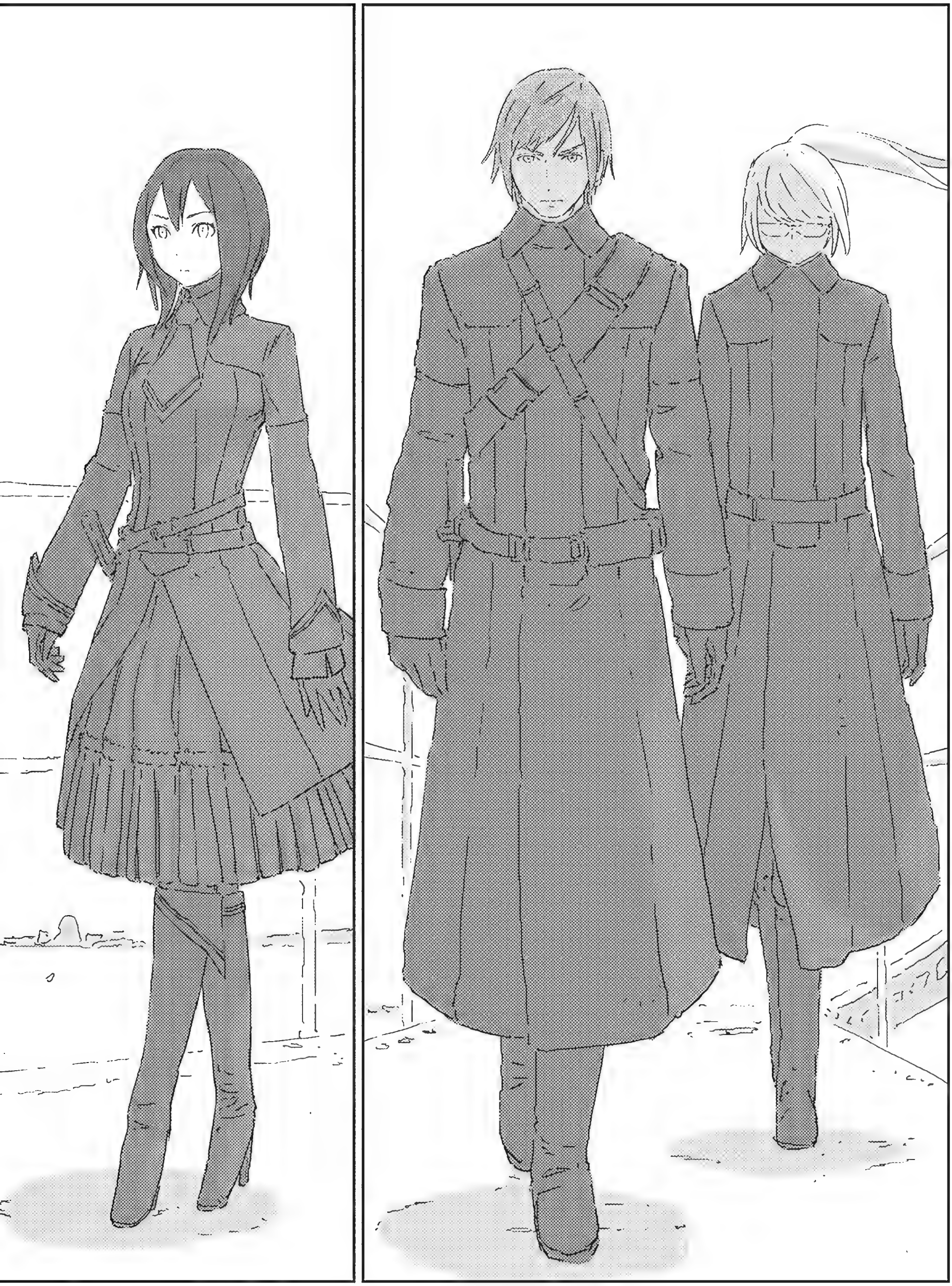
JIO... ONE OF YIYU'S SUB-ORDINATE REGULAR FRAMES.



WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THREE ADDITIONAL TOP-LEVEL REINCARNATEDS BEING SENT TO SUCH A BACKWATER?

FYUMA.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, YIYU.



I DON'T NEED HELP FROM YOU THREE. I CAN DO THIS ON MY OWN.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY DESIRES THE SWIFT RETRIEVAL OF THE RELICS

AND THE ELIMINATION OF THAT CERTAIN REINCARNATED INDIVIDUAL.

SHUT UP, YOU CORRODED MACHINE DRIP.

HIS MAJESTY DOESN'T THINK SO. HE IS TREATING THIS MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING SUCH COARSE LANGUAGE IN FRONT OF LORD FYUMA.

MR. YIYU.

YOU HAVE MADE A BLUNDER, YIYU.

TITANIA! A SHIP!

!

ONLY THIS MUCH ?!

THE PIPE HEATING APPARATUS FAILED AND THE WATER PIPES FROZE...

EXCUSES, HUH? ALL RIGHT, FINE.

THERE ARE NO REGULAR FRAMES BESIDES YOU WITHIN MY RANGE OF DETECTION.

ONLY ORDINARY SOLDIERS ?

OH HO. I SEE YOU HAVE FAMILY.

...
#621.

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?

N-NO! NO, WAIT !!

WELL, THEN... WE'LL HAVE #620 SUFFER THE PUNISHMENT IN YOUR PLACE.

620

KLIK

GRANDMA !!

7" 千 0.1

SPITCH

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

YOU PEOPLE HAVE GONE TOO FAR!!

!!

...

IF YOU ATTACK THEM NOW, THEY'LL BE ON ALERT, AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO AMBUSH THEM IN THIS TOWN EVER AGAIN.

I'LL EXECUTE ANOTHER ONE FOR THAT.

BAKRING

LET GO OF ME! HYAH!!

KRAK

HE'S BEEN SHOT!

JIO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS TOWN. WHERE IS HE NOW?

TSK! SO FAR AWAY.

ESCORTING THE #2 EXCAVATION TEAM.

IS THERE ANYONE HERE THAT WOULD STILL ATTEMPT SUCH A THING?

ARE WE UNDER ATTACK ?!

FOUND HIM! THERE HE IS!

THAT WAY! USE A MICRO VIDEO TRANS-MISSION UNIT!

ヒュウン

TOSS

SHIT. WHERE'D IT COME FROM?!

VIDEO INCOMING.

HE'S THE REINCAR-NATED!

PREPARE FOR DETONATION! ALL TROOPS, EVACUATE!

ROGER!

IF WE DO IT RIGHT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO IMMOBILIZE THAT REINCARNATED FOR A WHILE.

BLOW UP THE TOWN WITH THE SELF-DESTRUCT MECHANISM!

WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF IT.

THERE'S NO TIME. STAY OUT OF MY WAY, FYUMA.

!

WAIT!

YOU'RE SO NAÏVE... YOU'LL REGRET THIS.

THE SLAUGHTER OF NON-COMBATANTS IS INEXCUSABLE.

WE ARE FIGHTING TO LIBERATE HUMANITY FROM THE CENTRAL CONTROL LEVEL.

BSHMP
バス..,

WHUMP
ドン..,

YOU'RE... NOT A MERE PEDDLER, ARE YOU?

FATHER !

THEY'LL KILL ALL OF US IN RETALIA-TION!

WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU PEOPLE DONE?!

ETHEROW, YOU CAN DISARM THE EXPLOSIVE SCREWS WITH THIS.

ZZZZZZZZZZZMMMMMMMMM

ズ ズ ズ ズ ズ ズ ズ ズ ズ

!

TAKE THIS AND FLEE SOME-WHERE FAR AWAY!

YOU'LL GET CAUGHT IN THE BATTLE HERE!

DETECTING A REGULAR FRAME.

!!

FWAP

ゴ ゴ ゴ ゴ

DUN DUN DUN DUN

THAT SHIP... IT'S TOO LARGE FOR AN ORDINARY REINCARNATED ...

LET'S GO!

STOP THAT, YOU TWO!

バチ バチ..,

ZZAP

BZZT

GOT IT!!

DUN DUN DUN DUN

LORD SOLDIERS! IT WAS THAT MAN AND THIS WEIRD AUTOMATON THAT DID IT!

!

ARRIVING AT SITE.

E... ETHEROW, BE CARE... FUL...

BZZT

BZZT

EICHI! HE'S A TOP LEVEL REINCAR-NATED!!

FWUP

I THINK WE CAN GO HOME SOONER THAN EXPECTED, FYUMA.

WHAT A COINCIDENCE THAT I HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY. SUCH LUCK!

DUN

DUN

DUN

DUN

HHSSSSHH

BOOM

WHSSSHH

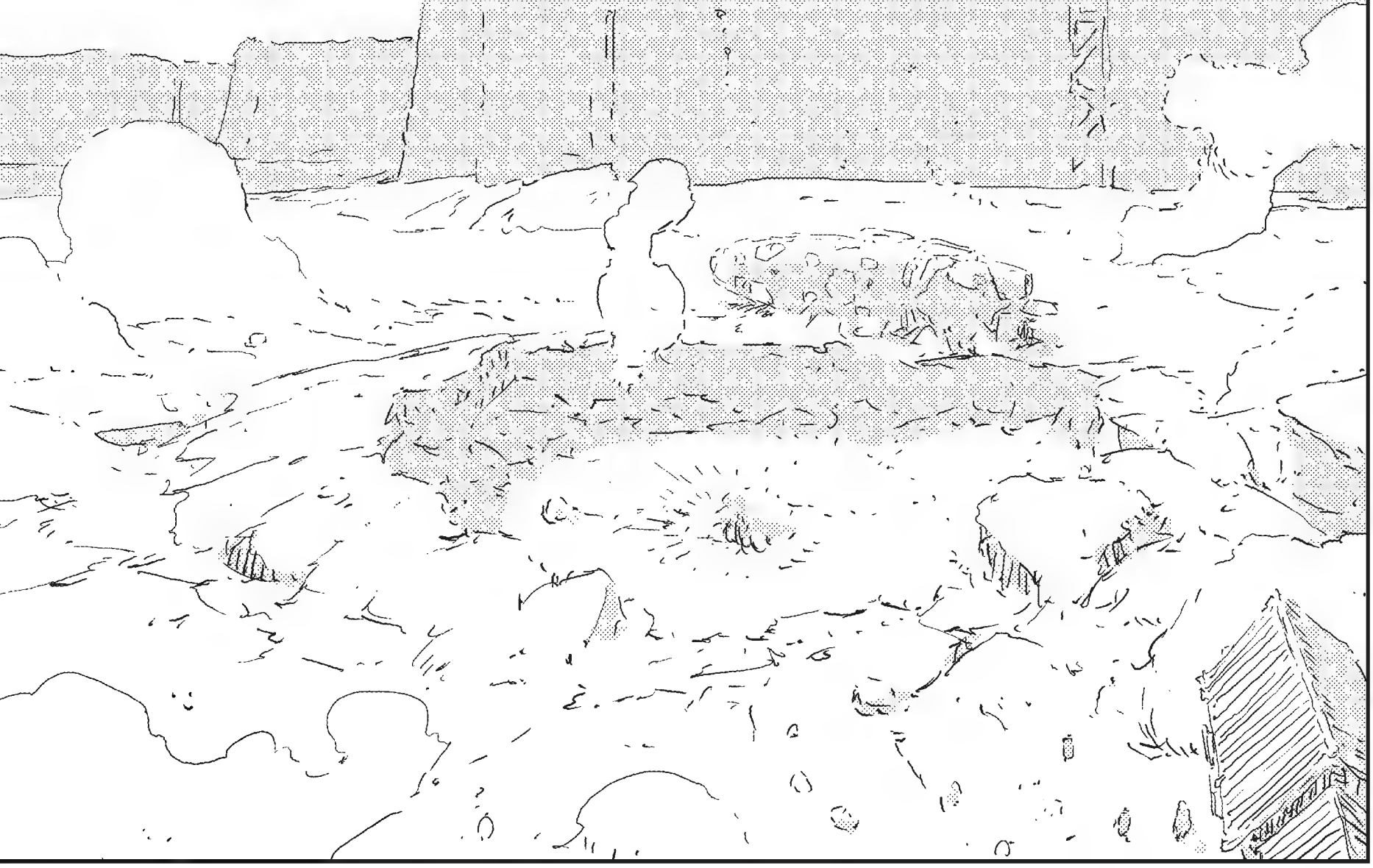
MISTER SOLDIER, SIR!

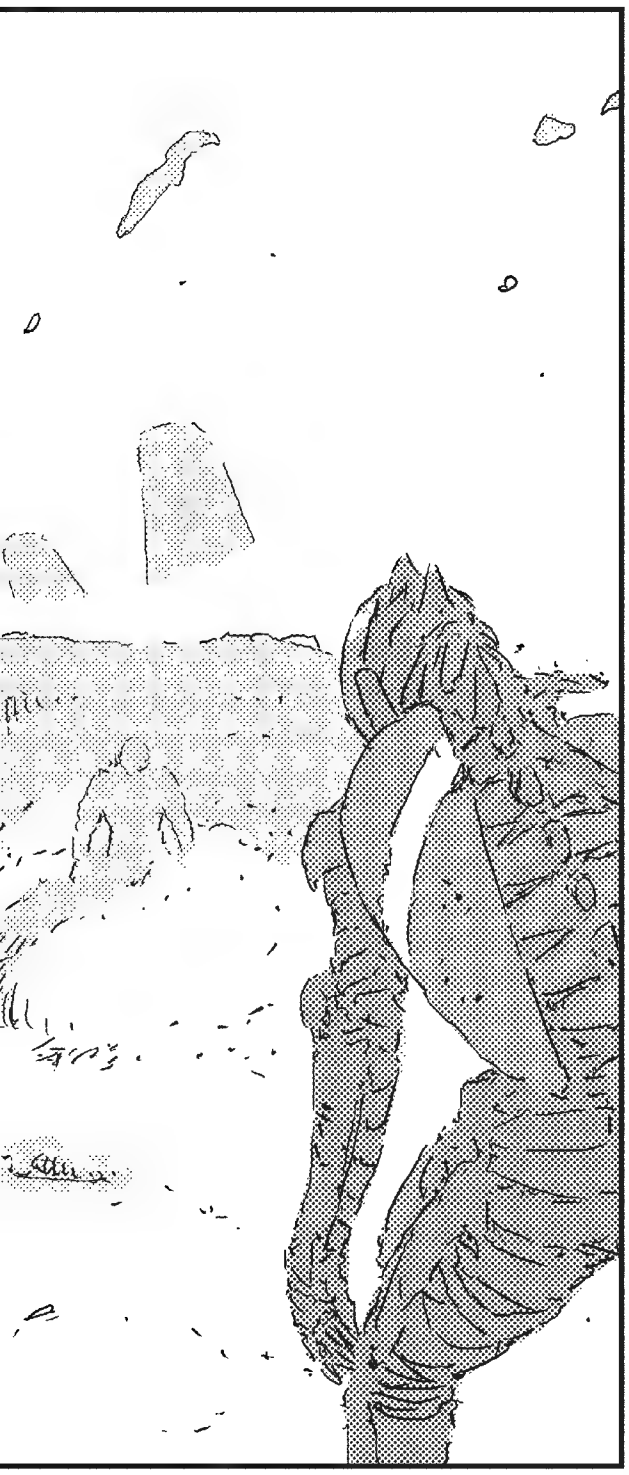
BAMM

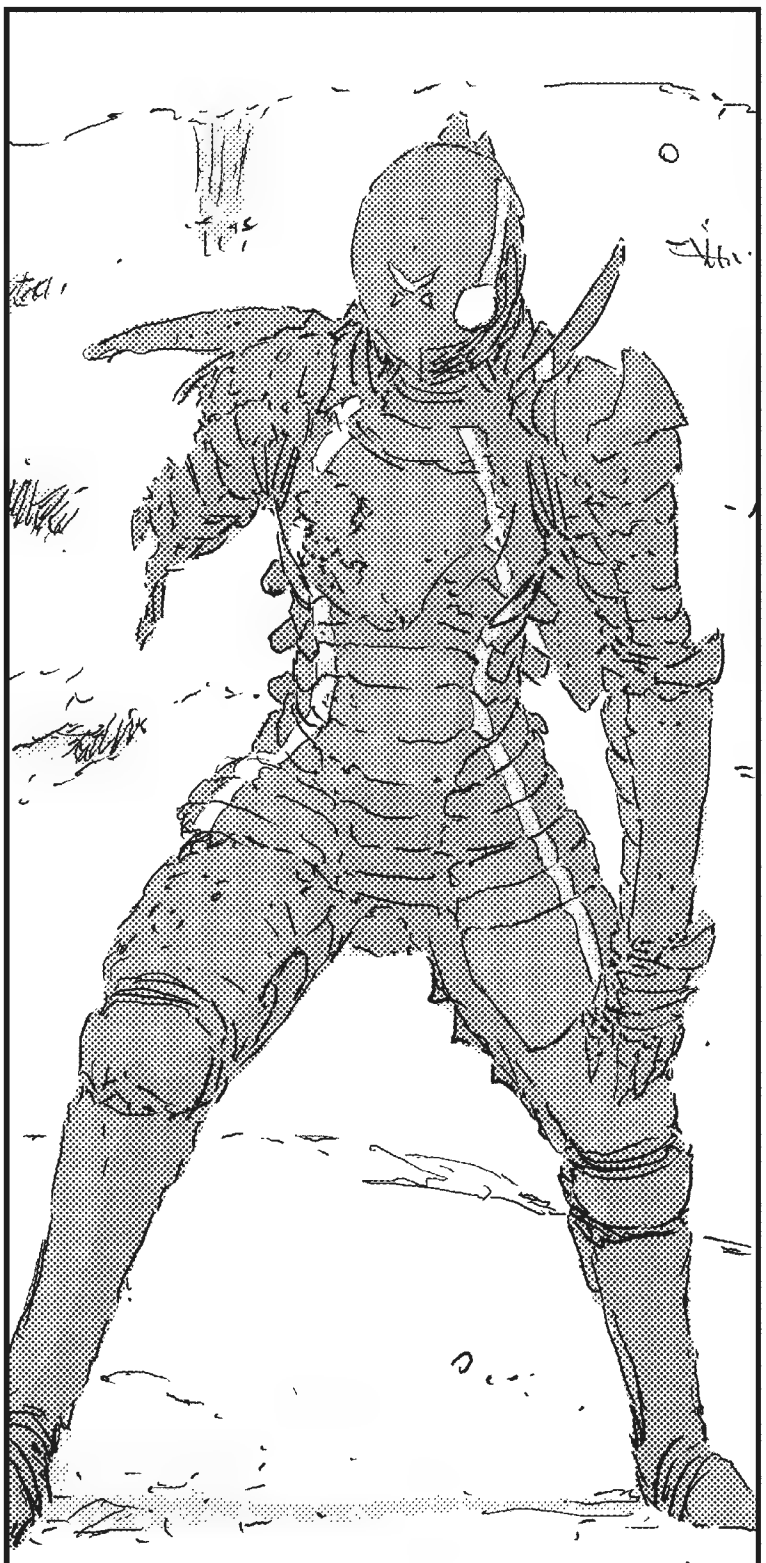
GWEEM

VWMM

BWOOMMMMM

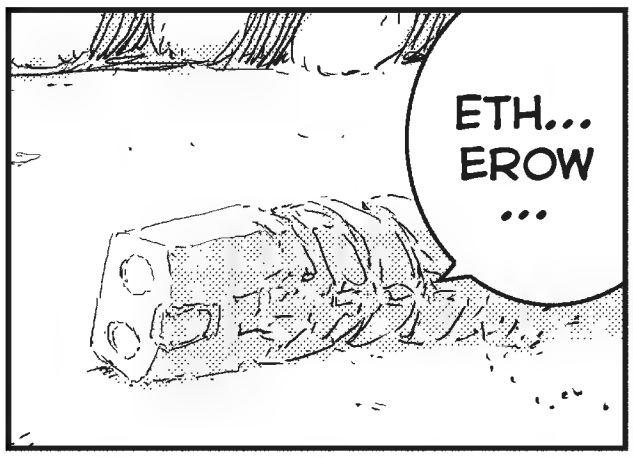


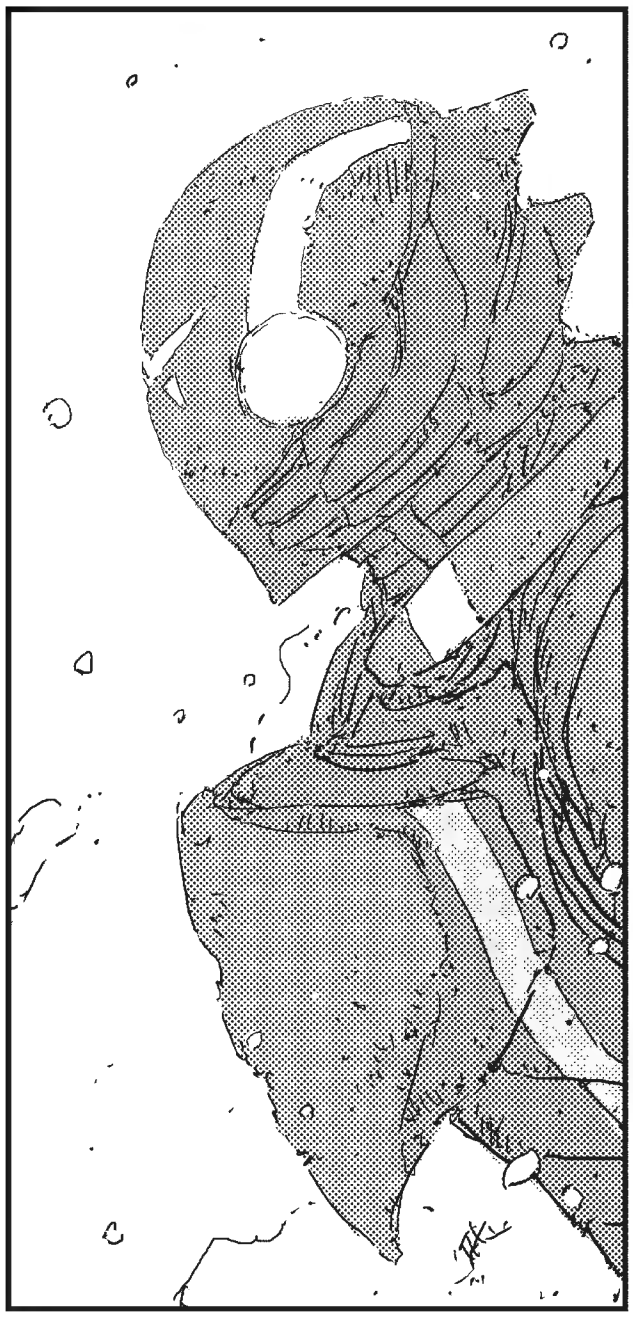










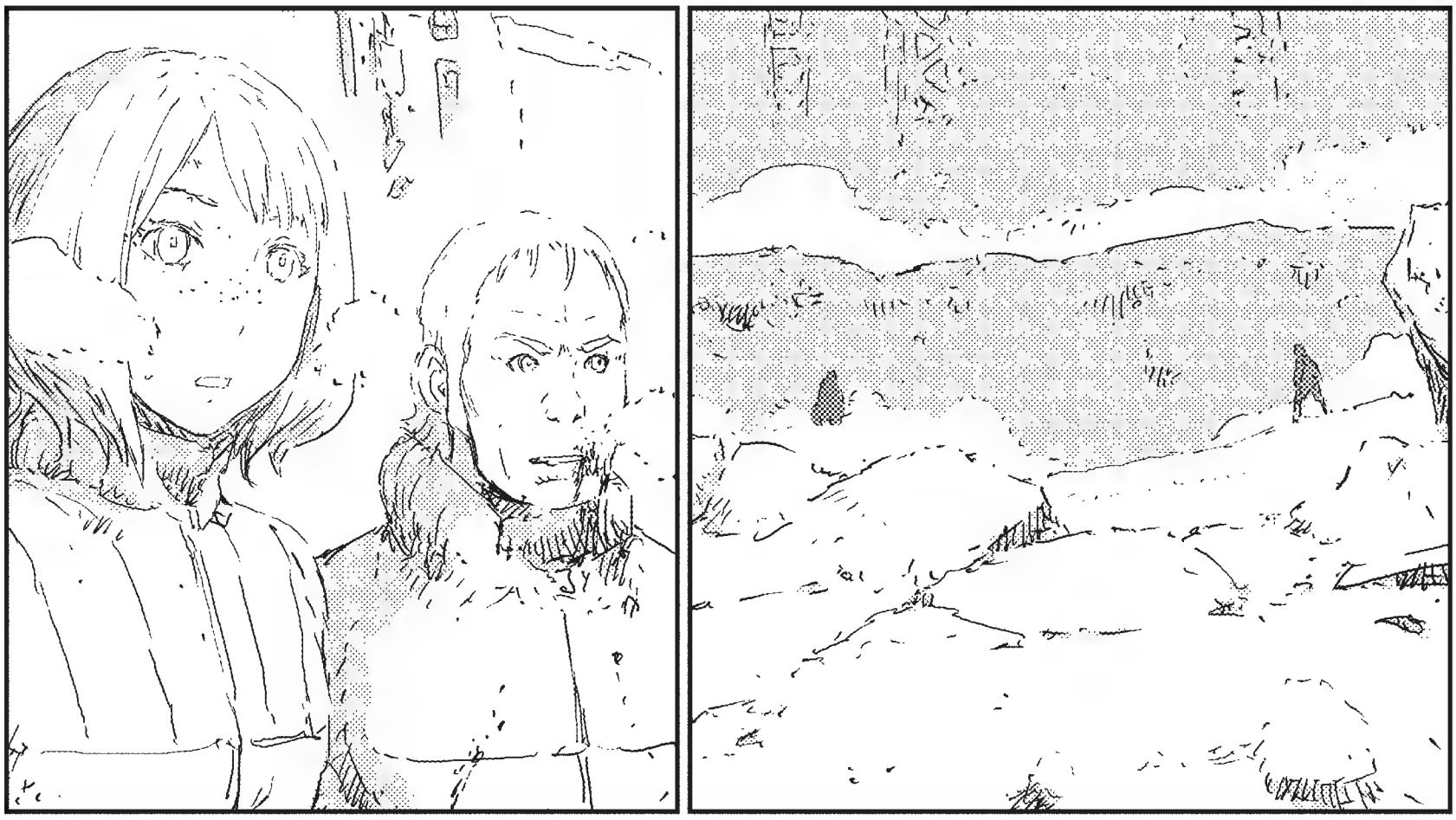


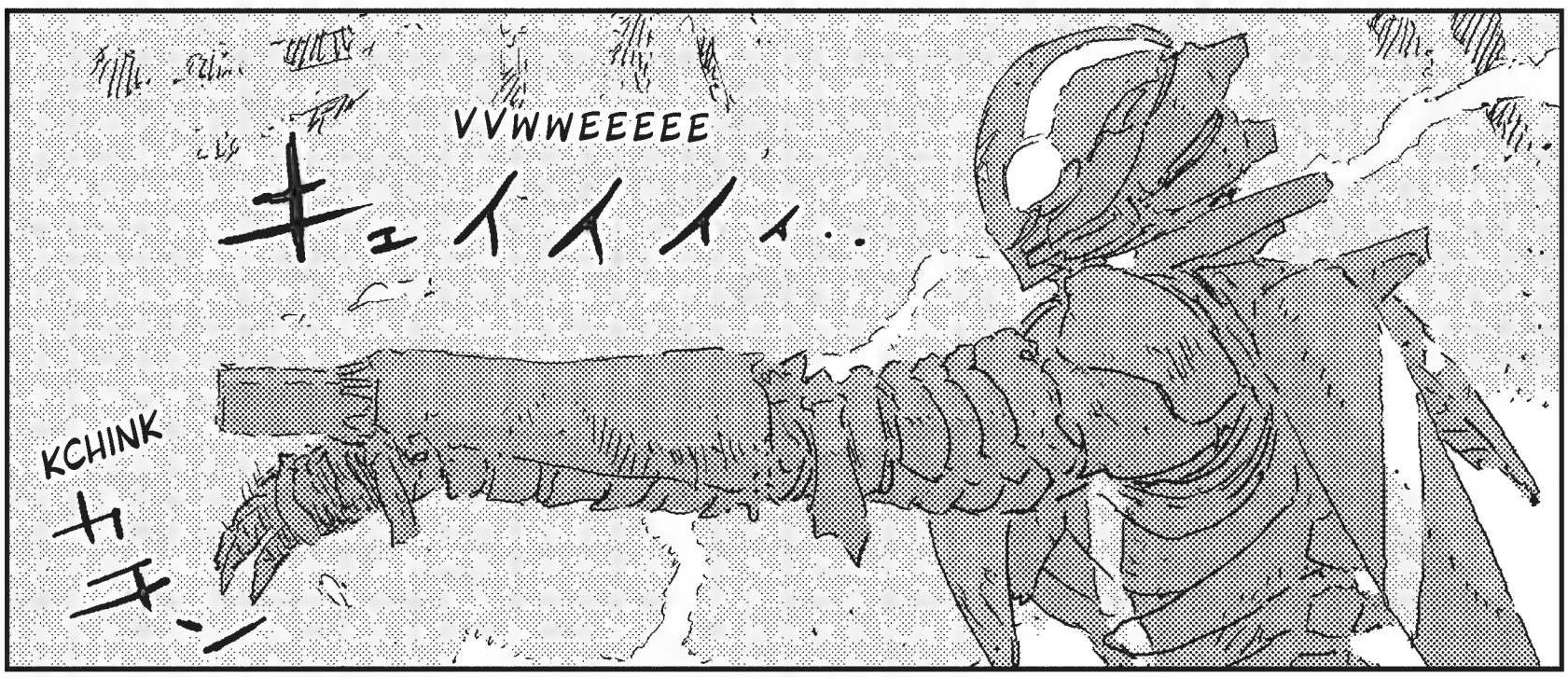
IT SEEMS YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF EVEN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ARMORED COMBAT.

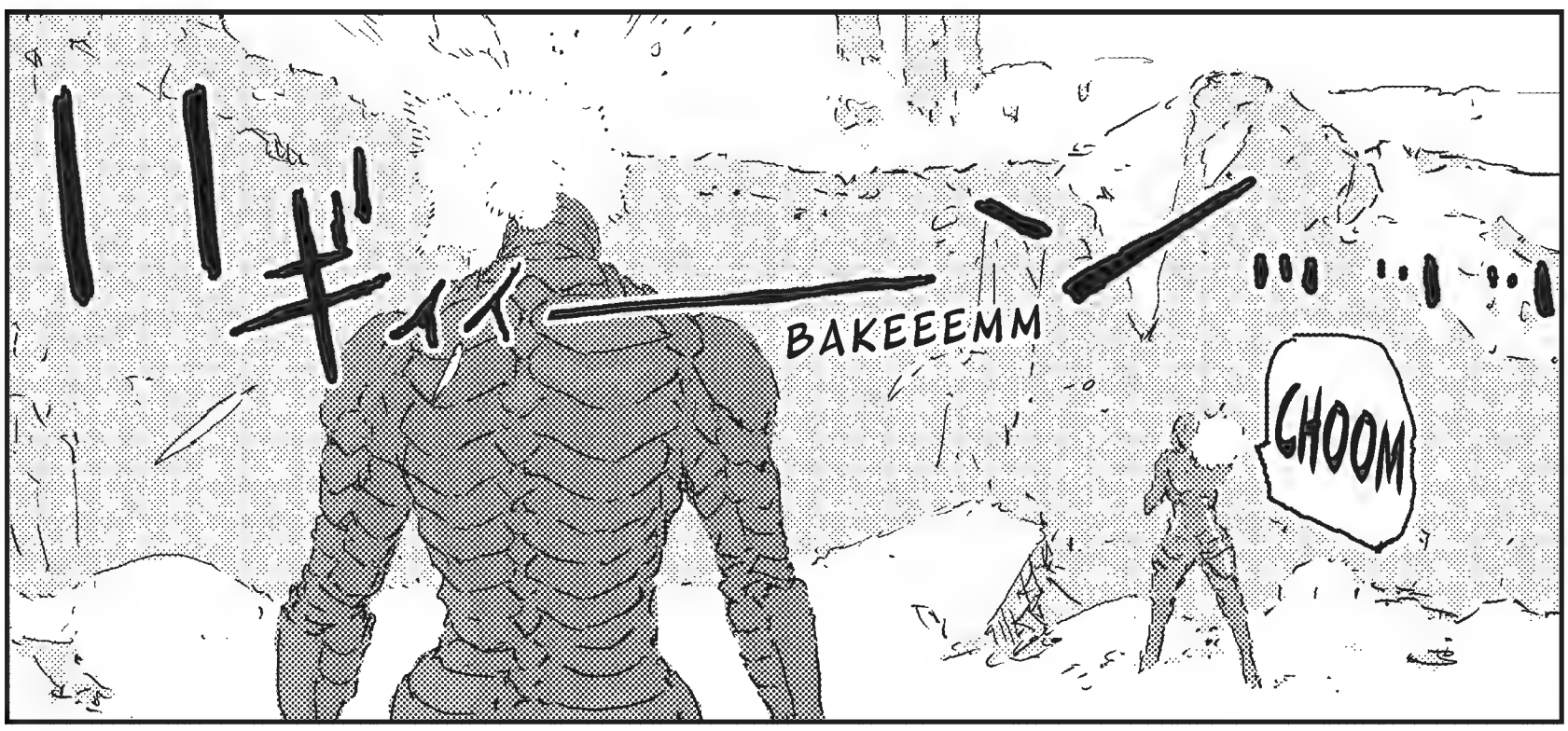
YOU DIDN'T EVADE THAT JUST NOW?

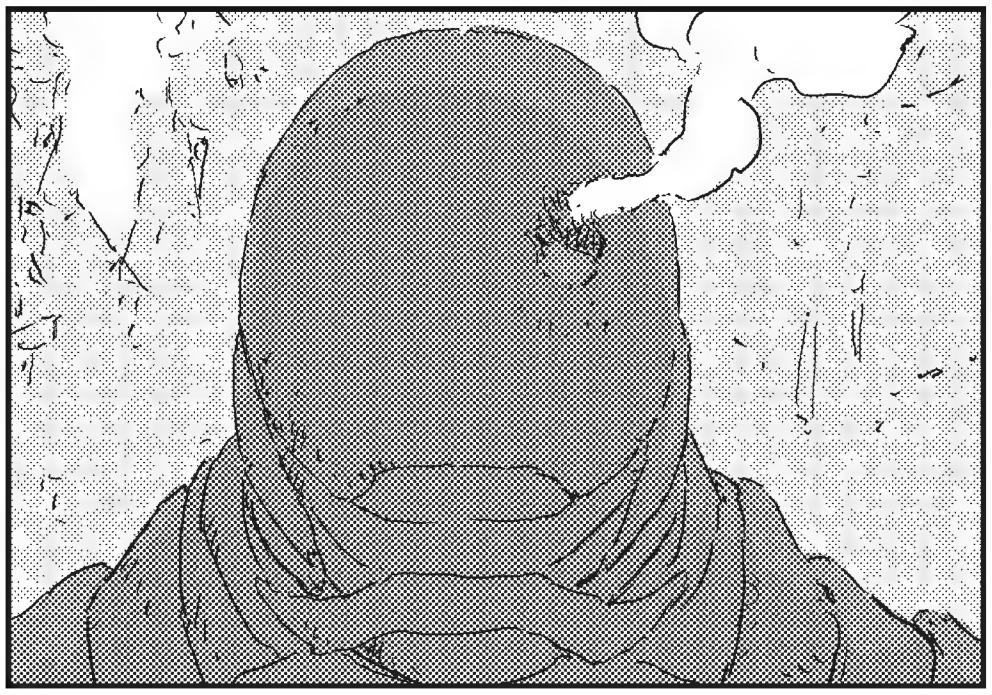
HHSSSHHH

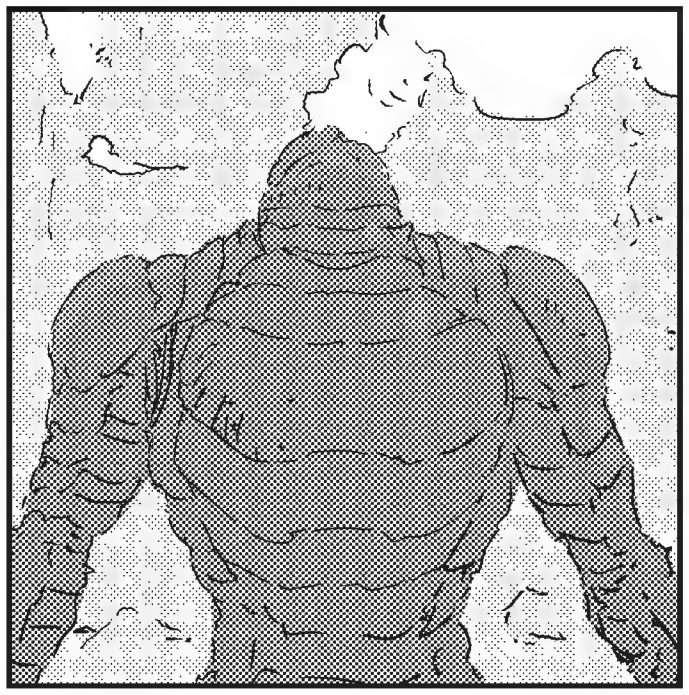
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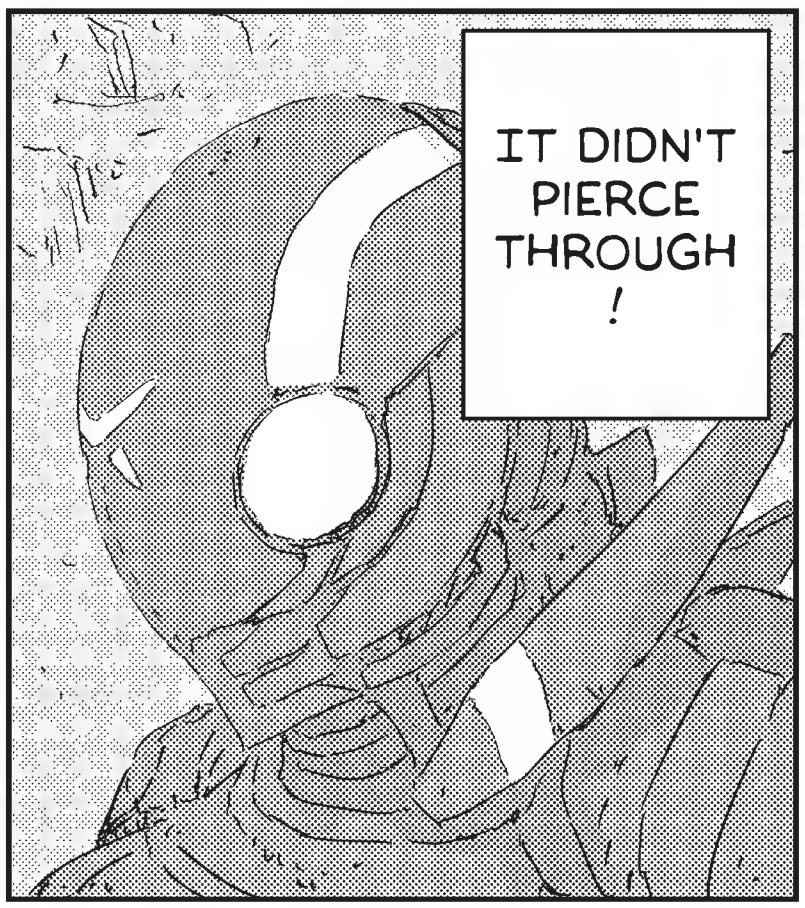

VVWWEEEEEE
キェイイイィ..
KCHINK
キン

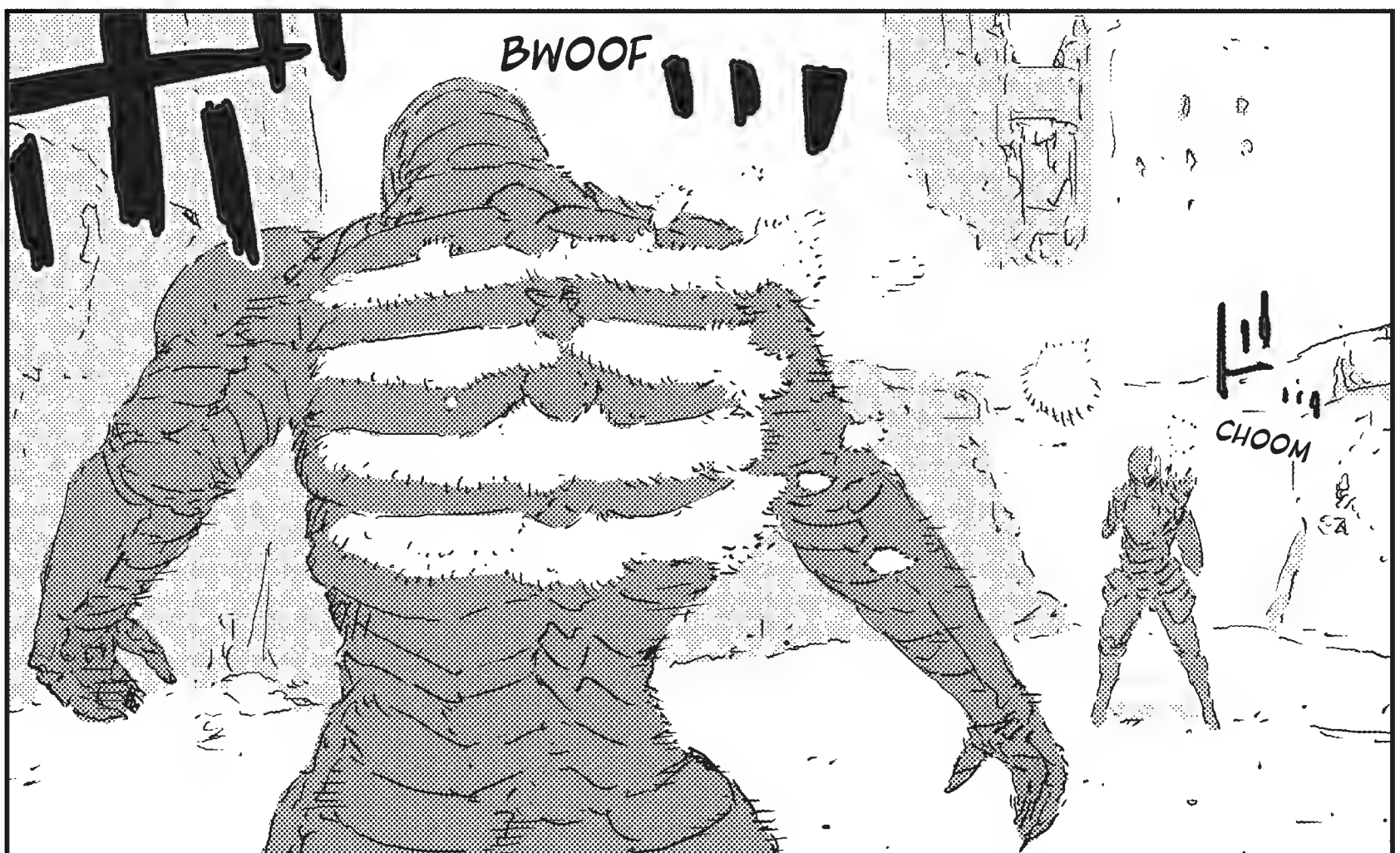

ギィ
BAKEEEMM
CHOOM






ONE MORE SHOT!
ヒュイイイ
VVWWEEE


IT DIDN'T PIERCE THROUGH!


BWOOF
CHOOM

DOES THIS GUY HAVE SO MUCH PLACENTA THAT HE CAN USE IT LIKE THAT?!

HE DODGED IT! HE JETTED SOME PLACENTA AND MOVED AT HIGH SPEED!

GACHOOM

YIYU COULDN'T EVEN HANDLE YOU?

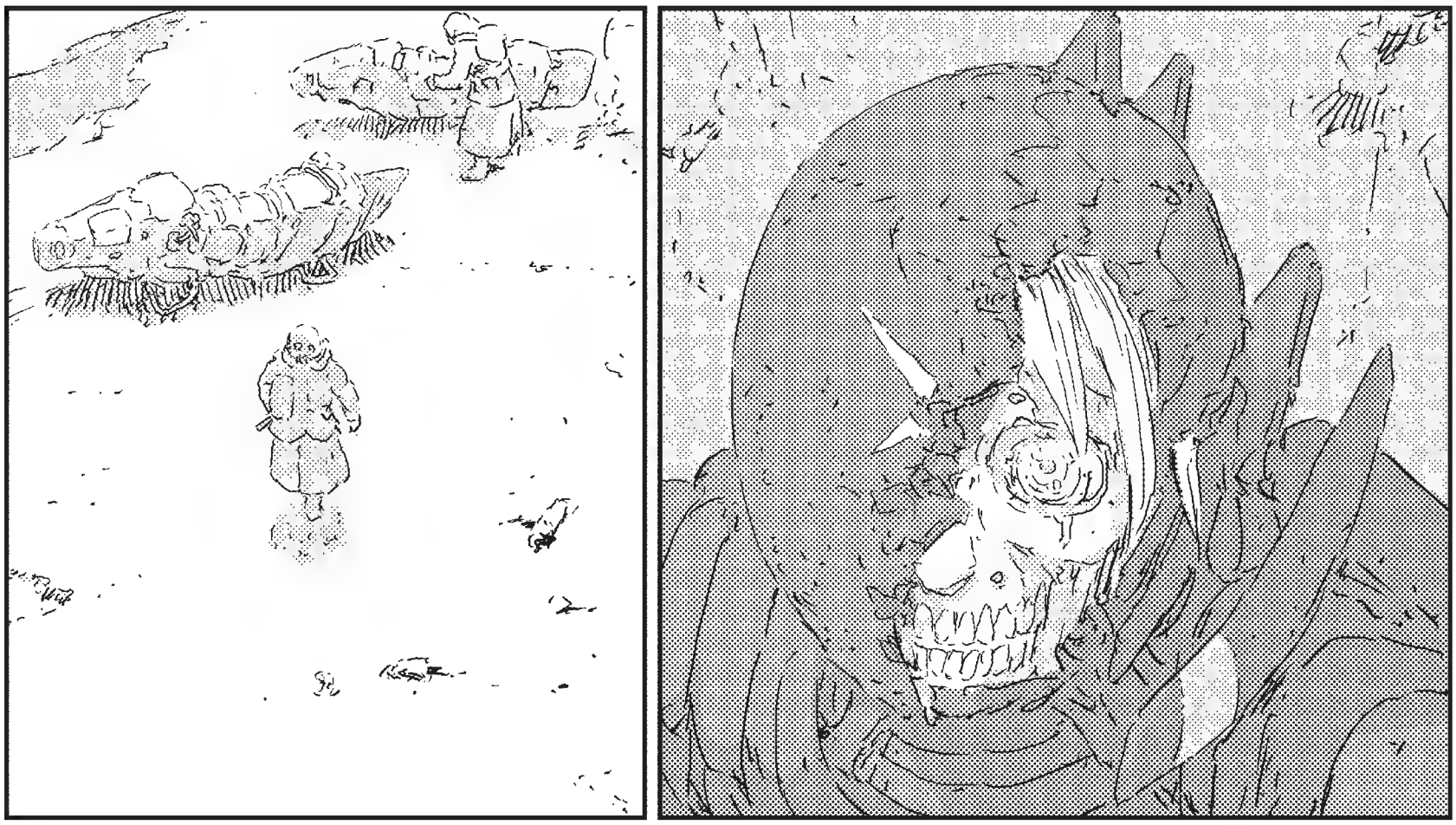
SHOOM

BAKONG

GABAAM

COME AT ME WITH YOUR FISTS IF YOU'RE A MAN!!

FIRING SYSTEMS ARE THE SPECIAL ABILITY I HATE THE MOST.




IT'S TITANIA!
WE'VE SECURED HER!


LOCK HER UP IN THE SHIP'S HEAVY AIRTIGHT CONTAINER.
IF SHE PUTS HER MIND TO IT, SHE COULD EASILY ESCAPE FROM THAT FLASK YOU'VE GOT HER IN.

BLAM

BLAM

WERE YOU TRYING TO TAKE DOWN MY SHIP?

HOW UNFORTUNATE. MY SHIP'S OUTER SHELL IS MADE OF MEGA-STRUCTURE.

BOM BOOOOM

DOES SHE HAVE THAT MUCH OF A HOLD OVER YOU?

THE FEW HAIGHS PARTICLES YOU HAVE LEFT TO RESCUE TITANIA ...

BUT... TO THINK THAT IN THIS SITUATION, YOU WOULD USE UP

!!

THIS ATTACK WILL WIPE OUT NEARLY ALL MY HAIGHS PARTICLES...

EBTG
CHANGING AMMO LOADING
AMB
REMAINING HAIGHS PARTICLES MINIMAL

GACHINK
ガキーン
ズズズズ
ZZZZMMMM

IF I MISS, IT'S OVER.

WELL, IF HE DOESN'T HIT ME, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WHAT'S THAT EMBLEM HE MADE APPEAR ...?

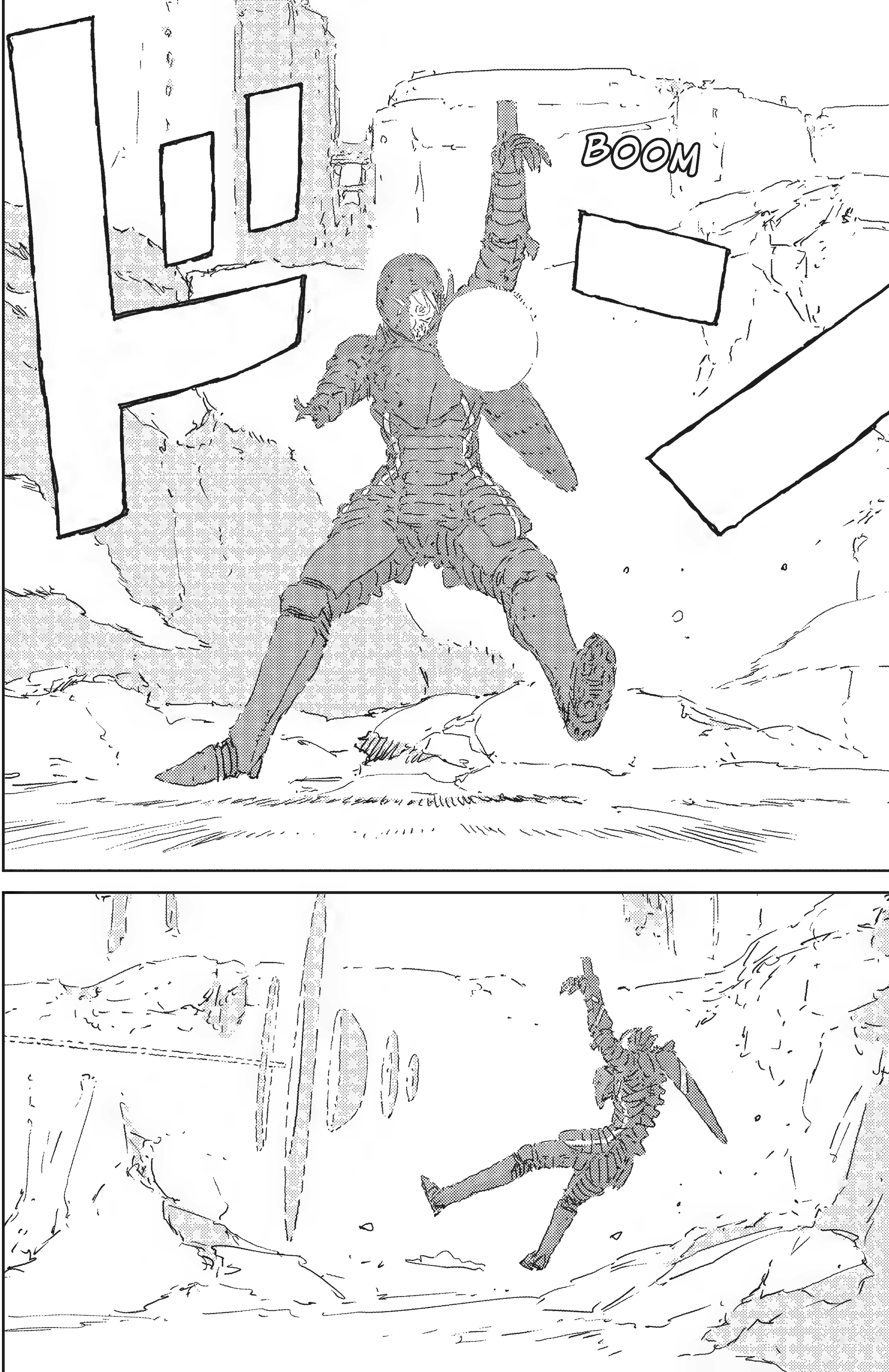
VVWWEEE

NOW!

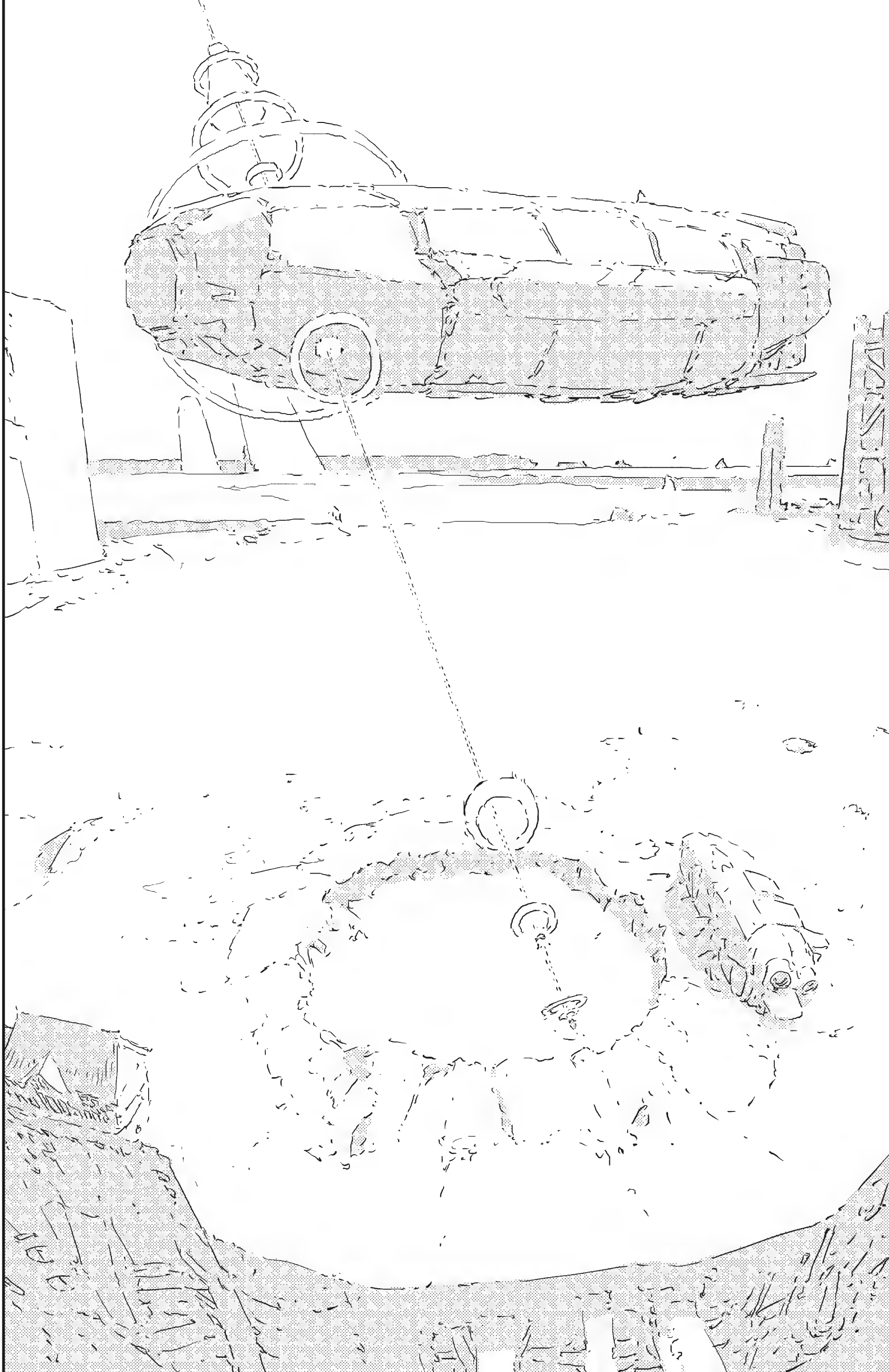
EEN

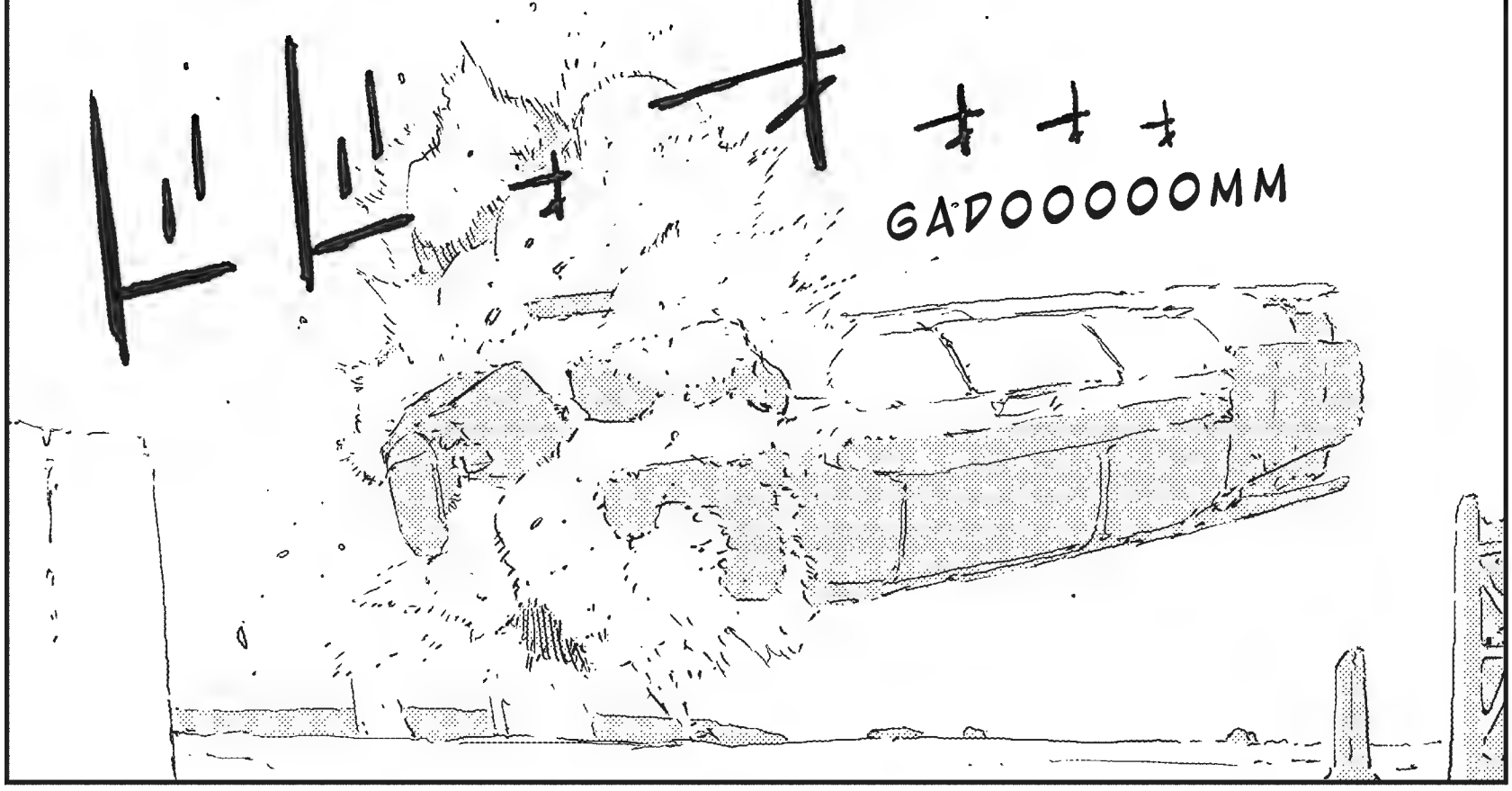
JUST BEFORE HE FIRES, THE COLOR WILL CHANGE FOR A MOMENT.

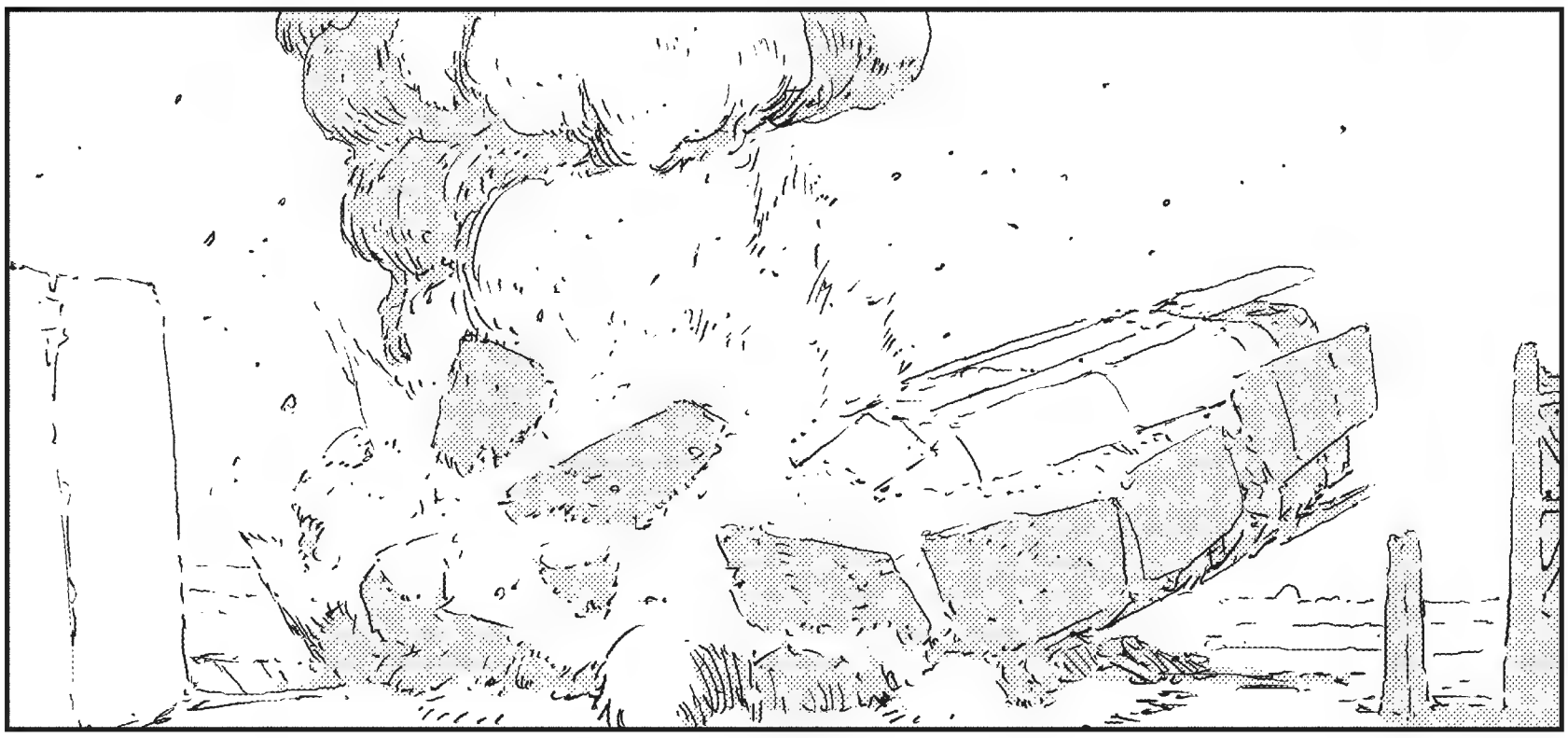

HE'S MATCHING ME! HAS HE MASTERED JETTING PLACENTA?!


BOOM

BUT AN ATTACK LIKE THAT WON'T PIERCE MY ARMOR—

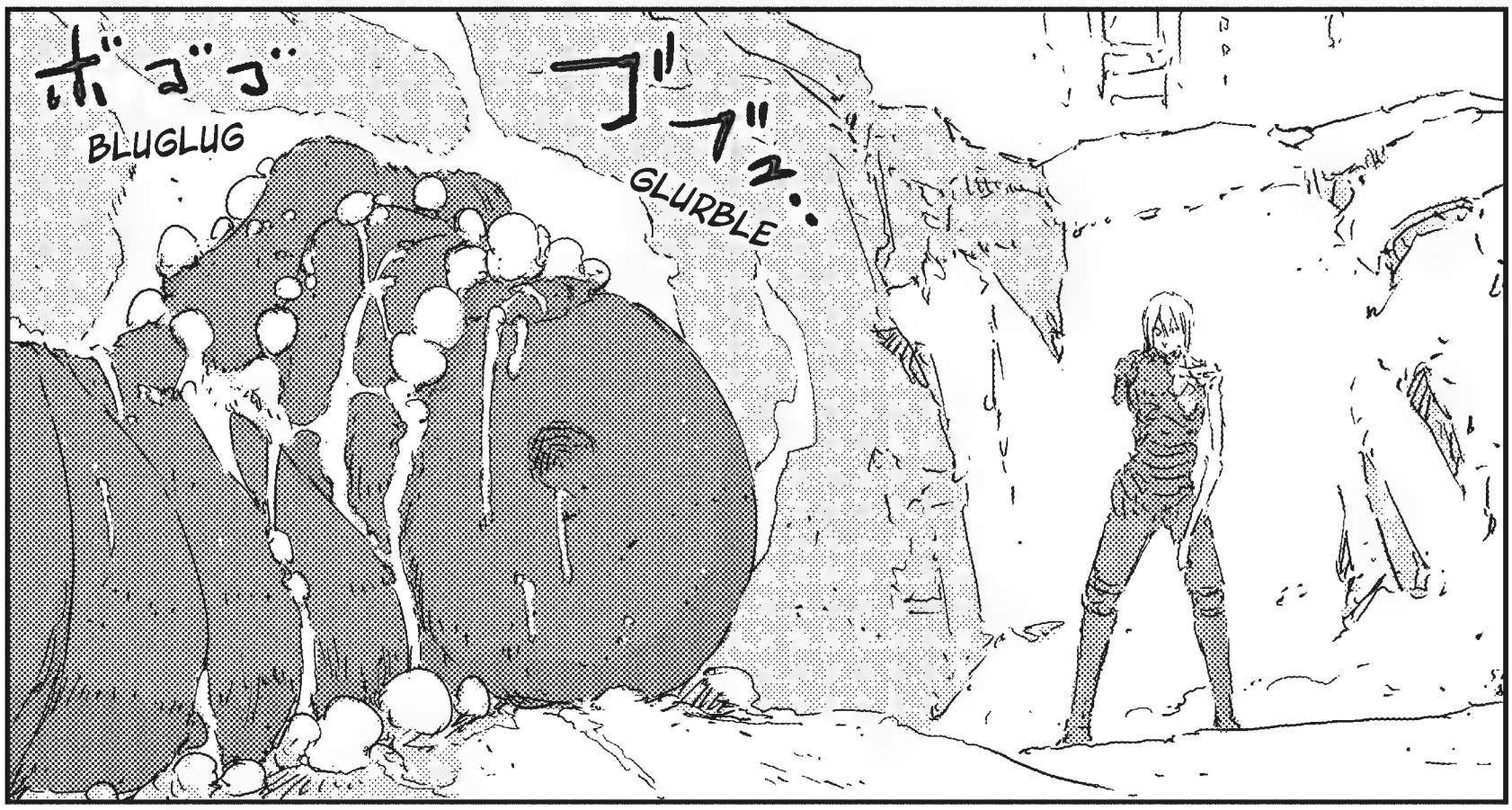


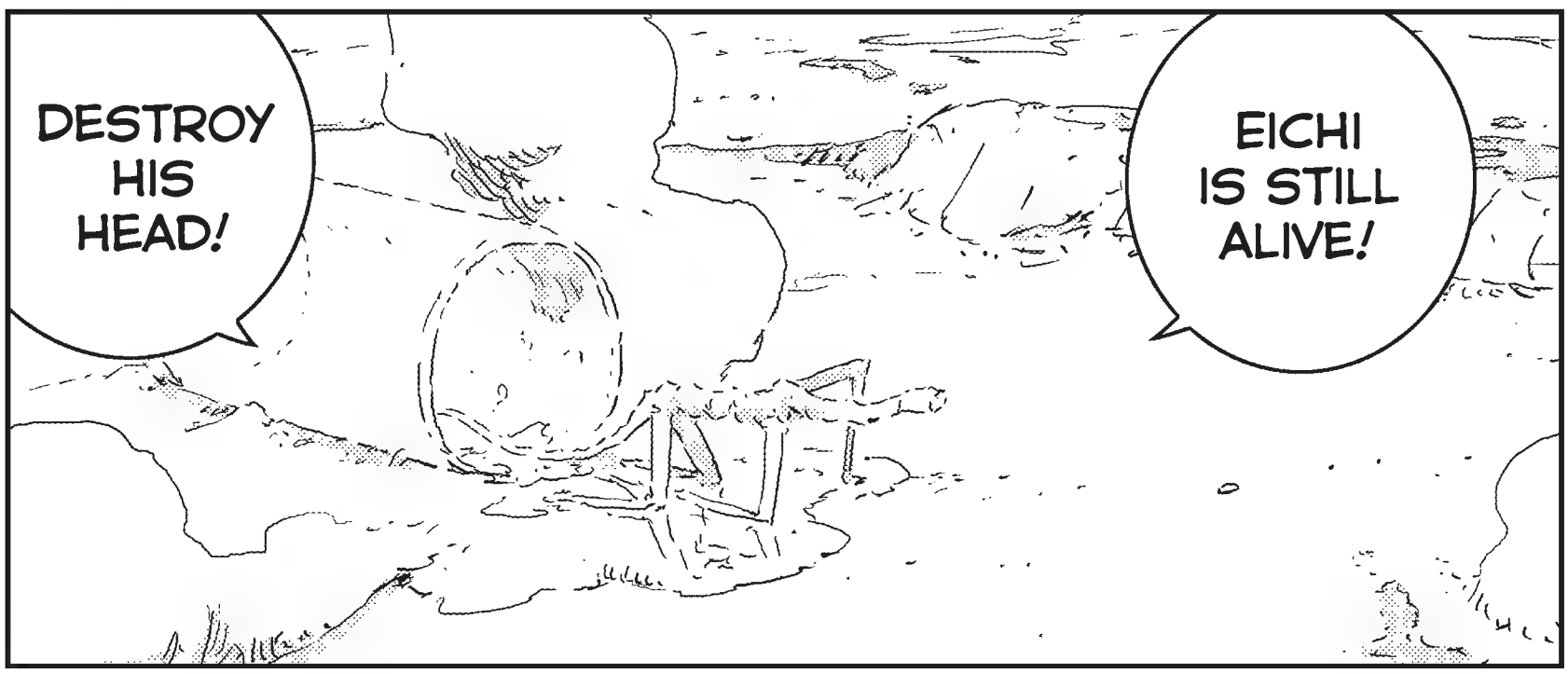

GADOOOOOMM








ボゴゴ
BLUGLUG
ゴブブ
GLURBLE


DESTROY HIS HEAD!
EICHI IS STILL ALIVE!

ブヒュ
BWSSH

DID YOU NOT EVADE THAT JUST NOW?

ボゴッ
BKONK

KRAK
KRIK

W-
WAIT
...

SHWSSHH
シュワワ..

SQUNCH
!!!#!

ズ
ZZSS
ズズズ
HHZZSS
ズ
NNH
ズズズ
ZZZ
ズ
ZZSS
シュウウウ
HHSSSHH

...EICHI.

HE PUNCHED A HOLE THROUGH THAT MEGA-STRUCTURE ...

THAT REINCAR-NATED USED A RELIC.

THAT WAS AN UNUSED SHELL WITH SPECIAL POWERS FROM ANCIENT TIMES.

THIS IS EXACTLY AS HIS MAJESTY PREDICTED.

WHY DIDN'T YOU WARN US?! IF WE'D KNOWN, THIS COULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED WITHOUT EICHI DYING!

JATE... DID YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WAS?!

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS, STATE THEM DIRECTLY TO HIM.

I AM MERELY ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS MAJESTY'S WISHES.

SO HE DOESN'T TRUST US, THEN.

I SEE!

PTT

OW!

KSHK

NO. EVERYONE'S HAD IT DONE.

IS THERE ANYONE WHO STILL HASN'T HAD THEIR EXPLOSIVE SCREWS REMOVED?

THANK YOU...

MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU TWO BE CAREFUL.

THERE'S WATER AND HEAT SOURCES ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE'LL BE FINE.

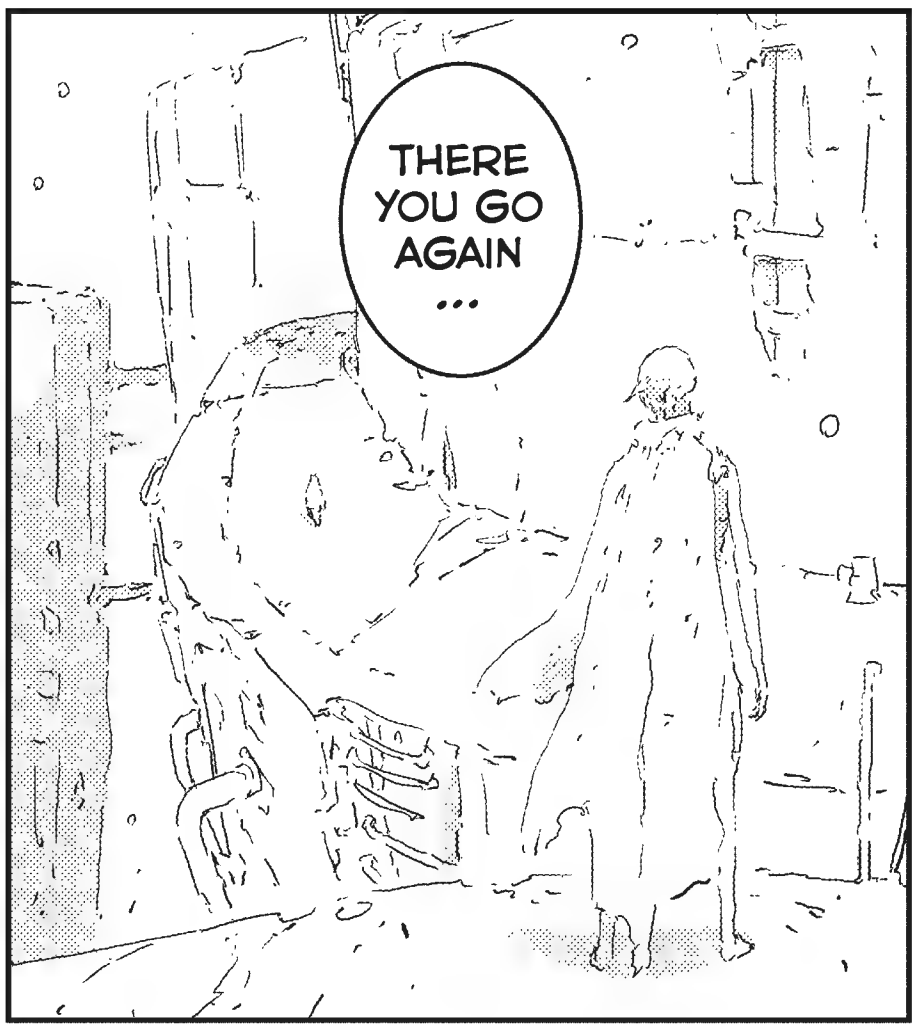
WE'LL BE LEAVING, THEN. WHAT WILL YOU ALL DO?

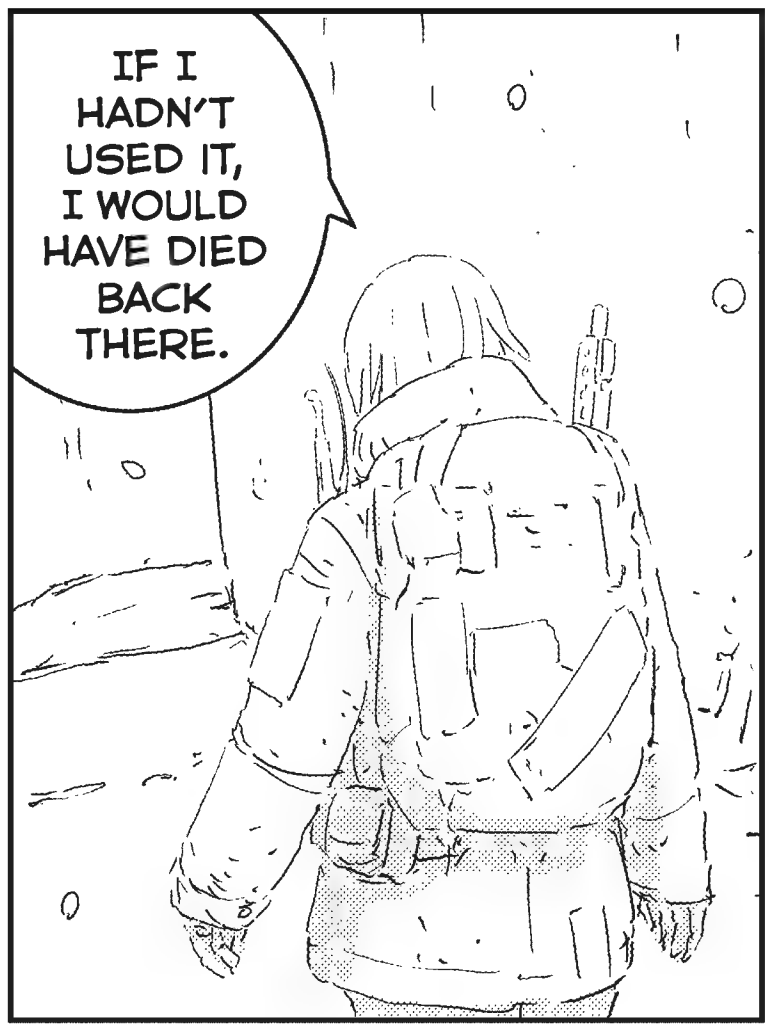
IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE THEM SO READILY, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY WHEN YOU NEED THEM MOST.

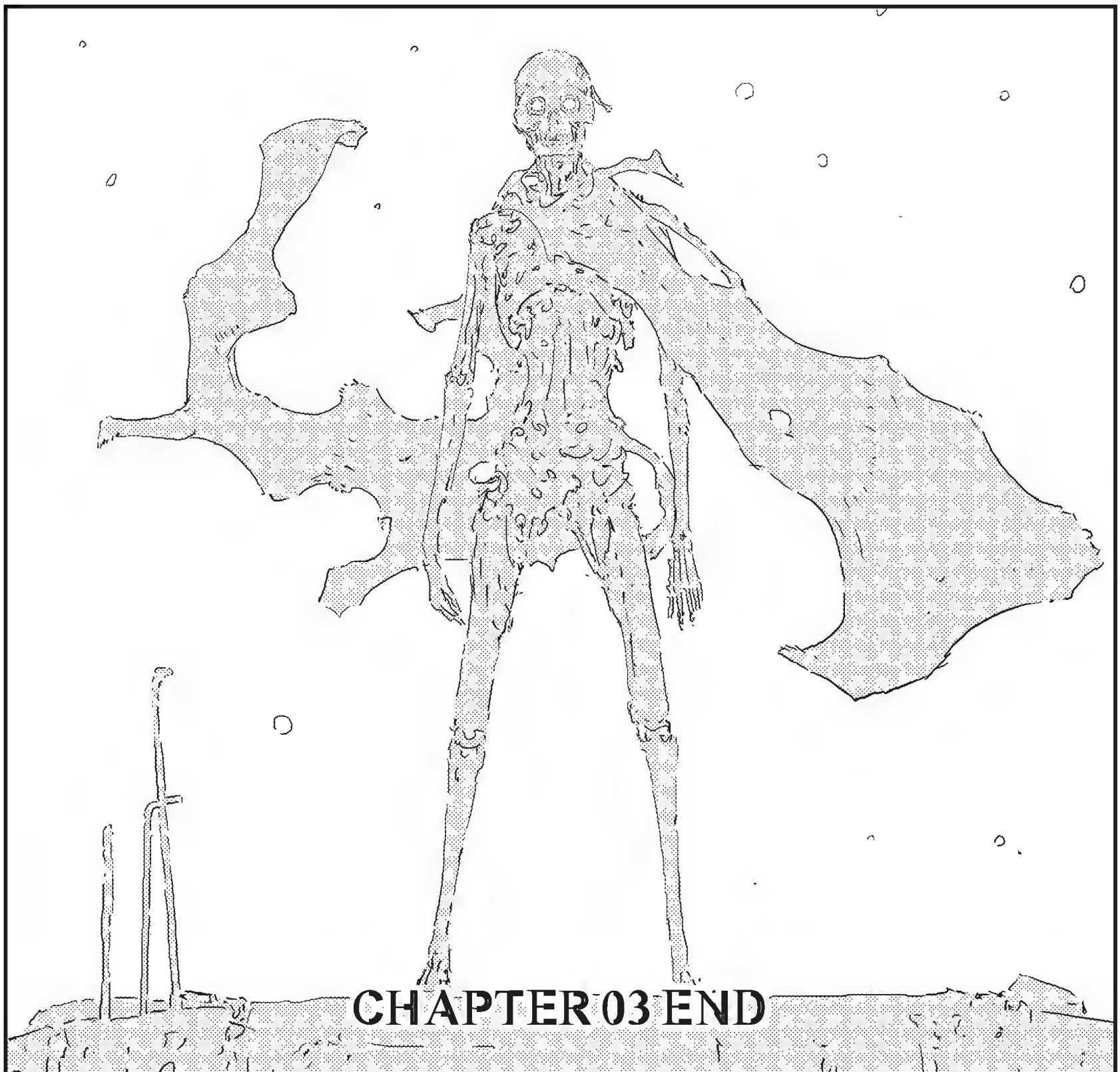
I TOLD YOU HOW IMPORTANT THE AMBS ARE, DIDN'T I?

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

ALTHOUGH... IT WAS THE ONLY THING YOU COULD DO TO SAVE ME.



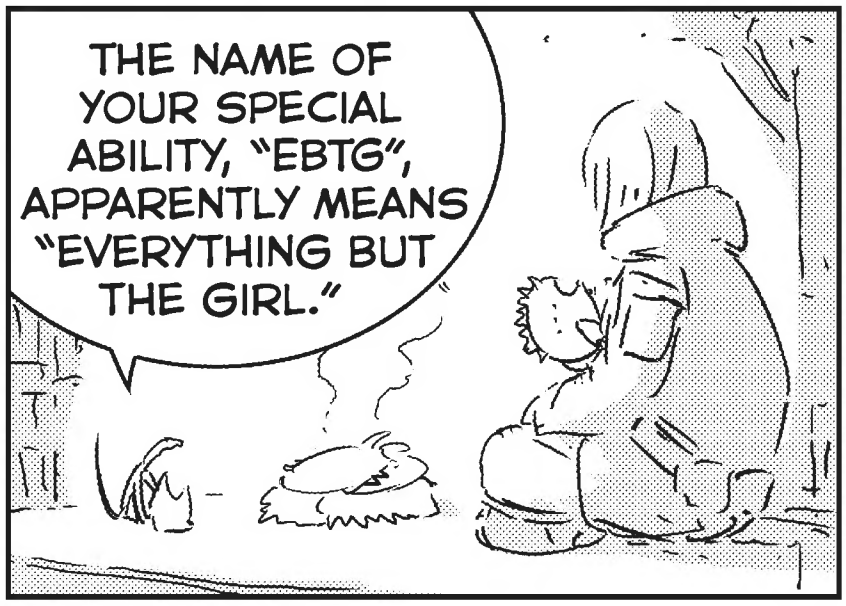


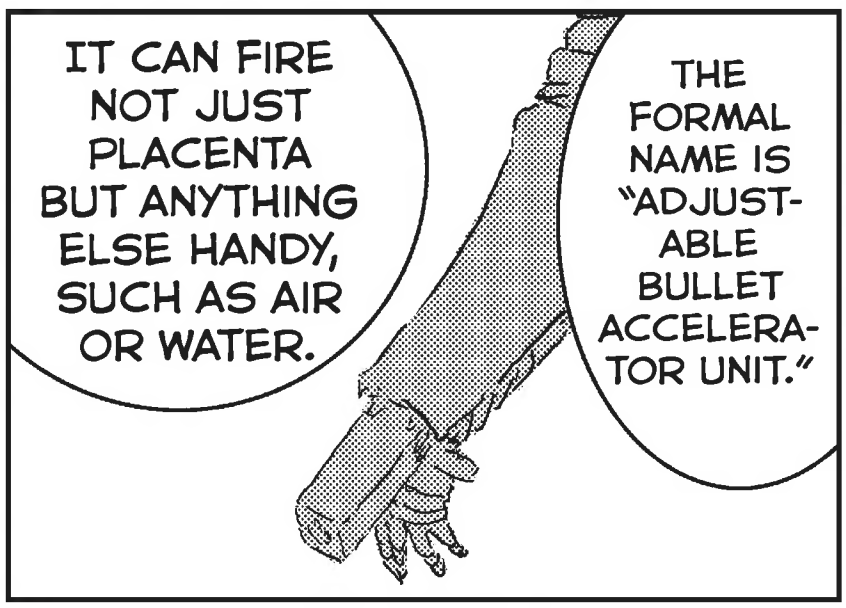


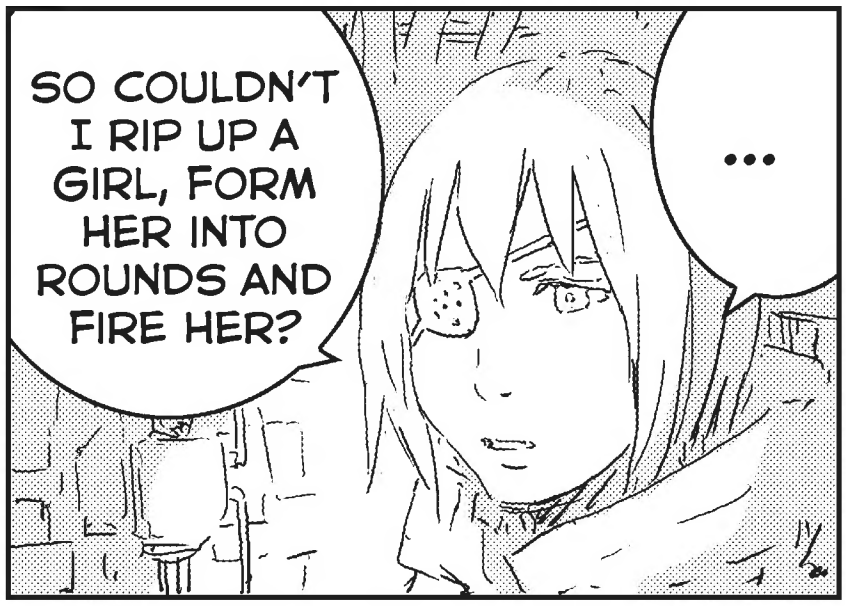
CHAPTER 03 END

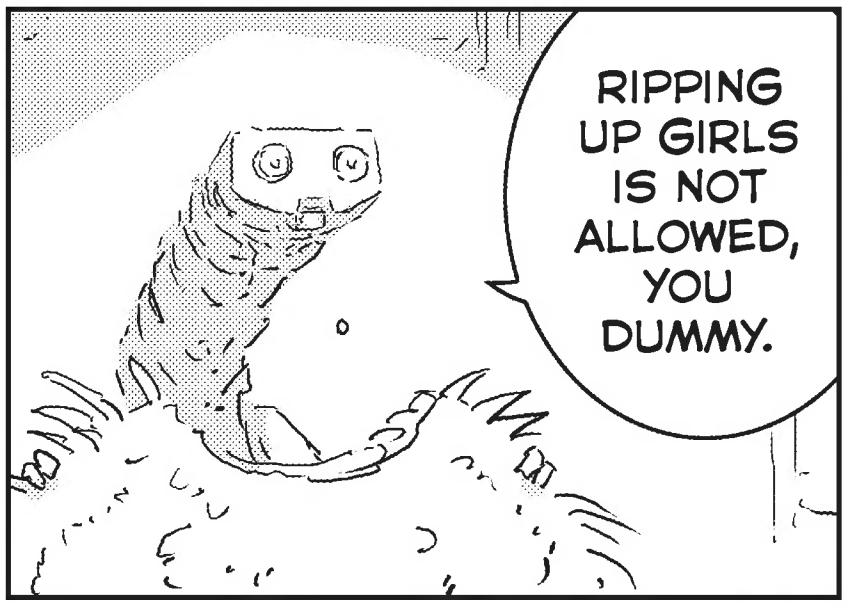
A P O S I M Z

ETHEROW'S SPECIAL ABILITY









CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2

APOSIMZ 1

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